

Hafa Adai!

Magofna questions CHCC practice of not remitting Chapter 2 and 7 taxes. **PAGE 3**

MCS senior Brent Ortizo is a Gates scholar. **PAGE 6**

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\$1

Saipan Tribune



**6 graduate
from Drug
Court program**

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court Drug Court

program honored six individuals yesterday for fulfilling all the requirements needed to graduate from the program.

In celebration of Treatment Court Month, the CNMI Drug Court program held a graduation

See **GRADUATE** on Page 4

Six individuals, bottom row from left—Jashlie Reyes, Diego Pinault, Sonny Vicente Camacho, Gorjonny Camacho, In Jun Cho, and Carrie Ada—graduate from the CNMI Drug Court program in a ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

CHCC, DPW disconnections on hold

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s plan to disconnect power and water services to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Public Works did not push through yesterday as the Department of Finance filed a dispute letter, while acting gover-

» **CUC says
breakthrough reached
in negotiations with
CHCC**

nor David M. Apatang presided over a meeting with the parties to continue negotiations.

See **CHCC** on Page 4

IN CASE OF DPS OFFICERS WITH ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL OT

**'TOUCHBACK'
COUNTDOWN**
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
148

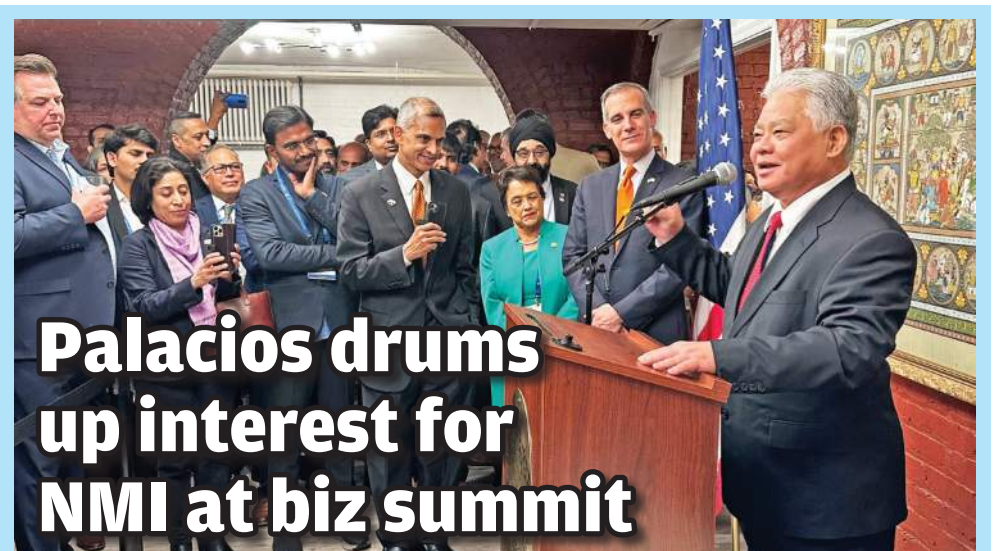
11 cops reinstated, 3 resigned

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has reinstated 11 of the 28 police officers who were placed on administrative duty for allegedly incurring illegal overtime. Of the 28 officers, three have already resigned.

DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes said that, as of last week, he has reinstated 11 of 28 police officers he had previously placed on administrative duty pending an investigation into alleged unjustified overtime hours incurred.

"Just a few days into my
See **COPS** on Page 4



**Palacios drums
up interest for
NMI at biz summit**

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios speaks at an event hosted by India's Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu (not in photo) for Indian companies that are currently investing in or planning to invest in the United States. Also in photo is U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, second from right, and Guam Gov. Lou F. Leon Guerrero, third from right. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and other officials also spoke at the event.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's exemption from the Jones Act was a major

selling point yesterday in Gov. Arnold I. Palacios sales pitch at the four-day 2023 SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C., where

he tried to drum up interest in the CNMI as an investment destination among potential investors.

See **PALACIOS** on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

360 Revolving Restaurant—the only revolving restaurant in the CNMI—is reopening for lunch.

PAGE 14



WORLD

Russia claimed it foiled an attack by Ukrainian drones on the Kremlin early Wednesday.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

Now it's time for the show. King Charles III will be crowned Saturday at Westminster Abbey.

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Local

'CK has had no kids' playground since the Naval Administration'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Chalan Kanoa has not been given the benefit of a children's playground since the Naval Administration days prior to the Trust Territory Administration, according to Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela, who is the chairwoman of the 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.



Santos

In this regard, the municipal council is proposing to create a children's playground across the U.S. Post Office and adjacent to the Saipan and Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku. This will require the acquisition of the only two private lands in the area, said Tudela in a letter to Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos.

Right now, there are two vacant parcels of land in that area that are "undisputed blighted properties" with little to no enforcement of action by Saipan Zoning, she said.

One parcel is frequented by what appears as "homeless" interest group occupying the area for fellowship and drinking. She said the second parcel is overgrown with grass and littered with plastic.

Tudela said it is for this reason that the Council leadership is asking for Santos' help to undertake an expedited action in resolving on the long pending land compensation claim to Lot 1794-R/W Roadway Pavement Improvement, otherwise known as Silk Road, that contains 3,064 square meters of land.

She said the compensatory claim of this taking of land has long been pending since action was last taken in May and July 1995, when DPL leased Silk Road to a third party and engaged a private party, Juan T. Lizama, to provide for a mutually beneficial agreement to Lot 1794-R/W Roadway Pavement Improvement project.

Tudela asked Santos to resolve this land claim in order for the council to use and occupy Lot 015 H 03 for the first Chalan Kanoa Happy and Healthy Children Playground, to be owned in fee by Lizama.

She said the adjoining Lot 015 H 02 parcel would require more work for fee title holder to release its interest to the council for the proposed playground project.

Tudela said the Council leadership is also asking for Santos' assistance in managing the acquisition to Lot 015 H 02.

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Magofna questions CHCC practice of not remitting Chapter 2 and 7 taxes

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Corina L. Magofna has questioned the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s practice of not remitting its employees' Chapter 2 and 7 taxes to the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"I'm very, very surprised to hear that kind of practice because that is definitely not in compliance with [Generally Accepted Accounting Principles]," said Magofna during the Senate joint meeting of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee, and Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee last Friday.

This practice came to light after Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) asked CHCC what particular revenue sources they are tapping into to maintain operations—considering the magnitude of the \$91 million that the government owes CHCC—to allow them to stay afloat despite operating on a deficit—as CHCC claims.

CHCC chief financial officer Perlita Santos said the management has opted to defer payments to related party. "We have not remitted Chapter 2 and 7 taxes and have not been paying [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]. So those are the most significant accounts that we are not remitting," Santos said.

Santos noted they are remitting 100% U.S. taxes.

"We are only withholding our related party taxes as off-

set to the related party obligations," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said this puts added pressure on the Legislature to do more analysis on the revenue collection of the Commonwealth. She asked CHCC to provide the Senate the total amount of Chapter 2 and Chapter 7 taxes that have been withheld to date that are still appearing on CHCC's books as not remitted to Revenue and Taxation.

Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) clarified that the central government owes CHCC \$91 million because CHCC is the one that covers the local share of Medicaid if the central government does not remain current.

Santos said they have a valid receivable from the CNMI government to offset.

"If we do not withhold those Chapter 2 and 7, those will essentially be an unfunded match, which would be questioned by Medicaid why [we are] using an unfunded match as a cost. Then we would not be entitled for the Medicaid federal match," Santos said.

She said they are funding the Medicaid local share somehow so that they will not jeopardize the entire CNMI from benefiting from Medicaid itself.

Magofna said she understands the rationale and that it makes sense logically, but she is looking at it from a legal standpoint and asked what the opinion of CHCC's legal counsel is about that practice.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña said there

had been discussions with former Finance secretaries Larissa Larson and David Atalig that there are some decisions that have to be made.

"They understand that there has to be an offset," Muña said.

Santos said that Larson and Atalig have agreed to the offset because it is for the greater good of the entire CNMI Medicaid to allow it.

"\$91 million owed to us is still greater than [our] CUC's arrears and Chapter 2 and 7 combined," she said.

Magofna asked if CHCC had asked for the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General, because she believes there are some very serious consequences, especially for employees who filed their tax returns and are waiting on those withholdings for tax reimbursement.

Santos noted, though, that so far to date, their employees have been receiving tax reimbursement.

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Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is set to host a lively street market style offering outside Mari Bar today, May 5, 2023, with delicious food and drinks that will transport you straight to Mexico.

The event will feature a special \$5 menu with mouth-watering dishes

such as Poke on Cone, Quesadilla, and Tacos.

Guests can also indulge in refreshing drink specials like Mari Bar's very own "Mari-Chelada" or "Coro-narita" for \$10.

For those looking to quench their thirst, buckets of Mexican beer and tequila shots

will be available.

The party starts at 5pm and goes on until late, so guests are encouraged to bring their amigos and make this Cinco de Mayo a night to remember! To top it off Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan will be doing a giveaway of tickets to the IMF-



COPS

From Page 1

appointment, we started investigating officers that were allegedly accumulating excessive amounts of illegal overtime hours. I'm happy to report that I've reinstated 11 officers because, after a thorough investigation, they have been exonerated of any illegal administrative actions. I'm really happy because that is 11 more officers that are out in our community," he said.

Unfortunately, three of the 28 who were on administrative duty have resigned, Bermudes said.

"There was a total of 28 who were put on administrative leave. Of that 28, three have resigned. We're slowly but surely returning officers back to duty," he said.

So far, Bermudes said, he is happy with the outcome of the investigation because officers are being reinstated.

"The front-line is my priority because that is where we engage the community, and that's who responds

when the community needs help. So I'm really happy that we're reinstating officers," he said.

Bermudes is asking for the community's patience as the investigation into the remaining 14 continues.

"Patience is key because we don't want to rush this investigation. We want to make sure that we thoroughly investigate the issue and we have been doing that," he said.

As for consequences, should any of the remaining officers be found unqualified to return to duty, Bermudes said criminal charges will likely be filed against them.

"If they don't qualify to return to full duty, then more than likely criminal charges will be filed against those officers," he said.

He said this investigation is part of his overall goal to rebuild trust within the community and department through transparency and equality.

Last year, the transition team assigned to DPS determined that the department requested approval for over 11,000 hours of overtime—roughly one year and a half's worth

of regular work hours—in just one pay period in December.

More specifically, the transition report noted that a whopping 11,127.25 overtime hours were requested for the pay period from Dec. 4, 2022, to Dec. 17, 2022.

In addition, the transition team also stated that upon review of timesheets and OT requests from January 2022 to January 2023, it found that DPS has been paying out excessive OT accruals for the same group of officers, some higher-ranking officers and certain lower ranking ones as well—specific to certain sections.

The transition team found that, of the over 11,000 hours in overtime, about 4,000 OT hours, roughly about five-and-a-half months of regular hours, were requested for 40 officers who were allegedly part of former DPS commissioner Robert Guerrero's "inner circle."

The transition report said there is reason to believe that possible fraud and theft of government time was committed.

CHCC

From Page 1

■■■
A CUC statement last night said it held off the scheduled disconnection of CHCC's power and water supply following a breakthrough in negotiations early evening last night.

CUC was scheduled to disconnect CHCC at 6pm yesterday, Thursday, May 4, but following nearly two weeks of back-and-forth, "the negotiations have finally borne fruit. As a result, the Commonwealth's primary utilities provider held off in shutting CHCC from its main power and water grid."

Acting CUC executive director Betty Terlaje said the negotiation breakthrough was reached at around 7:15pm last night. Details will be forthcoming.

"Both sides have been diligently negotiating for the past two weeks, and progress was made this evening," said Terlaje.

CHCC owes CUC \$53.6 million in outstanding balance as of March 31—reflecting overdue accounts through March 2023 for electric, water, wastewater charges and late fees.

■■■
This developed as CUC board chair Janice A. Tenorio disclosed that they issued disconnection notices yesterday afternoon to the Legislative Bureau, Rota Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Saipan Mayor's Of-

fice, Saipan Judiciary, and Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC also issued a disconnection notice to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Apatang presided over the meeting with CUC, CHCC, Department of Finance, and their legal counsels and two lawmakers in the governor's conference room yesterday afternoon in a bid to resolve the dispute.

In an interview shortly after the meeting, Apatang said they have been holding the meeting for almost a week now and that there is still no outcome. He said they are still going back and forth trying to figure out where CHCC can come up with additional funding and an agreement with CUC on how they will pay their monthly utility billings.

Apatang said CUC has to wait until CHCC can get help, as the corporation is expecting a substantial Medicaid reimbursement.

"I asked CUC to please just consider holding off disconnection today," said the acting governor as he expressed concern over the patients at the hospital.

Apatang said they want to make sure that if any disconnection is going to happen, CHCC is ready to generate its own power for the hospital.

He said they pretty much agreed to put off the disconnection until Tuesday, where they can invite other members of the Legislature to join them and continue negotiations until they come up with a solution.

"I asked them, 'Don't cut off [the power] tonight and wait until we

reach an agreement at least [until] Tuesday when the governor comes back so he can be involved,'" Apatang said.

He said it's a major issue and that they need the hospital to be operational.

CUC served a disconnection notice to CHCC and DPW for failure to pay arrears for power, water, and wastewater services that have now reached \$53.6 million and \$1.12 million, respectively, as of March 31, 2023.

Separately, Tenorio said yesterday that they are still in the middle of negotiations with CHCC and that she is not sure when is the new deadline to disconnect will be. Tenorio said they are hoping to have a final decision this morning, Friday.

With respect to DPW, she said Finance, on behalf of DPW, submitted a dispute claim and that this temporarily suspended their disconnection.

CHCC executive director Esther L. Muña said they are waiting for their new memorandum of understanding with CUC to resolve the issue.

Muña said they will look at the terms of the new MOU. She did not elaborate.

Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said that, on behalf of DPW and the central government, they filed Wednesday a dispute letter before CUC and that this temporarily prevented the disconnection to DPW.

"We were reviewing our billings and outstanding payments in the system and they do not match the disconnection notice that was provided. And so we asked CUC to delay until further review," Norita said.

Indigo Music Festival for this May 12 with raffle receipt.

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Don't miss out on the fun! Join Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan on May 5, 2023, for a memorable Cinco de Mayo celebration! (PR)

4 senators file off-island notices

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sens. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), and Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) have notified that they will be going off-island.

Babauta informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) Wednesday that she will be on leave beginning yesterday and expects to return to work on May 19. She did not indicate in her notice whether it's for an official business or a personal trip.

In response to Saipan Tribune's inquiry, Babauta said she will be attending the Territorial Climate & Infrastructure Workshop 2023 in

Hawaii. The workshop will be from May 8 to 12.

With Babauta's absence, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) shall be acting chairman of the Senate Judiciary, Government and Law Committee, and Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) shall be acting chair of the Senate Executive Appointments & Government Investigations Committee until her return to the Commonwealth.

King-Nabors informed DeLeon Guerrero last Monday that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business starting tomorrow, Saturday, through May 14.

A longer version of this story is available at
www.saipantribune.com

GRADUATE

From Page 1

ceremony for the six newest graduates at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The six are Carrie Jane Ada, Gorjonny Camacho, Sonny Vicente Camacho, In Jun Cho, Diego Pinault, and Jashlie Reyes.

Many were moved to tears following a speech from Reyes, a mother of six who has since turned her life around since entering the program back in September 2021.

"Every day was a struggle. Some days were harder than others, while some were bearable. It was definitely a struggle I didn't know if I could overcome. But being honest and accepting the reality was the first step toward change," she said.

Reyes shared that the program helped her gain control of her life again, one day at a time. "One of the greatest things I learned during the program was to be smart and not strong. I realized that being strong is not the key. Making smart decisions and choices, being honest with myself, and thinking about the consequences of my actions is what has helped me to move forward with my sobriety," she said.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

In his remarks during one of the sessions in the Investment Summit organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Palacios said the CNMI's exemption has several potential benefits for foreign companies looking to do business on the islands.

Jones Act is a federal law that requires all goods transported via water between two U.S. ports to be carried on U.S.-flagged ships that are built, owned, and operated by U.S. citizens.

In the case of the CNMI, foreign companies can use non-U.S. flagged vessels to transport goods to and from the CNMI, Palacios said.

"This can result in lower shipping costs, which can make it more economically viable for foreign compa-

Today, Reyes is a program assistant at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and is working toward a bachelor's degree in social work.

"All the things I've said and all the tears I've cried, it was all worth it. Through the program, I was able to get a degree, get a job, and put a roof over my family's head. Today is only the beginning of a beautiful life. [Drug Court] helped me blossom into the flower that has long been wilted. I've been shown light and the importance of loving myself first," she said.

When asked how she felt after graduating, Reyes said she feels free.

"It's a really wonderful feeling. I'm finally free now. But the best part is now being able to be there for my six kids," she said.

Reyes also shared some words of encouragement to those who need treatment, whether it be due to addiction or mental health issues.

"If you're struggling with drug abuse or mental health issues, reach out and speak out. We have a lot of resources available in the CNMI and you just need to ask," she said.

Following the graduation ceremony, acting governor David M. Apatang signed the proclamation designating May as CNMI Treatment Court Month.

nies to do business and strategically situate the CNMI as a conduit to the U.S. mainland market in their supply chain management," he said.

Palacios said the CNMI's exemption from the Jones Act also gives companies greater flexibility in terms of shipping routes, schedules, and carriers, which can contribute even further to lower overall costs. He said foreign retailers, for example, can import clothing, electronics, or other consumer goods from Asia and transport them directly to the CNMI without using a U.S.-flagged vessel. The governor said this can lower transportation costs, a savings that can be passed on to customers in the form of reduced prices.

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MCS senior Brent Ortizo is a Gates scholar

Mount Carmel School senior Brent Matthew Ortizo has been selected to join The Gates Scholarship Class of 2023.

The Gates Scholarship program provides a full-ride scholarship to "outstanding, minority, high school seniors from low-income households." Students selected for this scholarship exemplify academic achievement, service, and commitment to excellence.

Ortizo is about to graduate high school and he wants to pursue a degree in technology. "Influenced by my brothers and father's love for technol-

ogy, I wished to one day work with computers, programs, and various sorts of advanced



Ortizo

technology that remain on the horizon of humanity's technological progress. As of now, I desire to study computer science. ...However, I do have interests in biomedical engineering," he added.

He describes attaining the Gates Scholarship as almost a dream, since only 1.4% of its applicants are awarded the

scholarship, which he said is an acceptance rate lower than that of various prestigious scholarships and colleges.

"Who knew that, out of all of the thousands of deserving and well-qualified applicants of the Gates Scholarship, I would be part of that 1.4% to receive it? I feel extremely honored, humbled, and grateful to be named a Gates Scholar from the CNMI and have the future of my education secured," he said.

When asked what aspects of his application helped him stand out, Ortizo said one topic that challenged his creativity and writing skills was reimagining himself as a one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World in the year 2042 "Such a topic allowed me to become a visionary of the future aligned with my passions and goals to hopefully one day develop an efficient and sustainable way for quantum computers to become a normalized reality amidst our current technology," he said.

Gaining the Gates Scholarship is also an opportunity to represent the CNMI. "Being able to represent my community in the CNMI as one of its many hardworking scholars at a national level...is not something that I have expected as

a student, but it is something worth pursuing with great passion and dedication. Being named a Gates Scholar helps to provide me a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a positive impact and give back to my community while also achieving my academic and career goals."

While representing the CNMI is an honor to Ortizo, he also aims to give back. "I owe a tremendous amount to my own community here in the CNMI. ...My home definitely played a vital role in allowing me to come this far as the person I am today. I wish to one day give back to my own community by helping students in the near future navigate their own path to success, nurturing and growing STEM literacy within the CNMI, and potentially furthering the CNMI's technological infrastructure."

He also believes that MCS played a significant role in his life and the present achievements he has reached. "My soon-to-be alma mater, Mount Carmel School, has played a significant role in my life. As a student who attended kindergarten at Sister Remedios and has so far spent 12 consecutive years at Mount Carmel School, I have been able to not only pursue an excellent standard of education but embody my

school's mission of 'educating the whole person to see with Christ's eyes.' Without the great educators, leaders, and role models I have witnessed lead, succeed, and helped several students like myself grow at Mount Carmel School for twelve years, I would not be able to become the student I am today as a lifelong learner. I believe that character, a strong sense of integrity, and humility go a long way toward being a high academic achiever, and Mount Carmel School undoubtedly has helped to encourage and grow these values within me. While working alongside dedicated teachers and other talented students, I have been able to find and develop my passion for STEM. I am ever so grateful to my Mount Carmel School family, so much so I consider it as my second family."

MCS president Frances T. Taimanao said, "We are extremely proud and happy for Brent. He has worked so hard to reach this achievement. Brent has always dedicated himself to his school work, community service, and the extracurricular activities he is passionate about. His selection as a Gates Scholar is just the beginning for all Brent can accomplish." (PR)

Robert Tenorio Torres

Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Claimant Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF } Civil Action No. 17-0256 (R)
RAMON M. SABLAN, }
Deceased. } NOTICE OF AUCTION AND
JUDICIAL SALE OF
LOT 646 R 112

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of an Order made by the Court and entered in the above-titled action on the 21st of March 2023, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Claimant Bank of Guam in the above-titled action, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **June 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**, at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said judgment, to wit:

Lot 646 R 112, contains an area of 929 square meters. The property is located in the Chenchon area below the Rota Airport.

Notice: The property boundaries are subject to the buyer's survey at the buyer's own cost. The map below is the approximate location of the property, without any guarantees.



1. **Public Sale.** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. to reject any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Claimant Bank of Guam.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Estate Administrix reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 13th day of April 2023.

/s/ Robert T. Torres
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-018

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAHEY JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Revamped boy scouts' memorial unveiled



Family members of the four Boy Scout Troop 907 members who died at Forbidden Island on Feb. 18, 1973, along with a survivor, Antonio P. Sablan, front center, pose with the newly unveiled memorial at the San Antonio Youth Center Wednesday afternoon, which was a project of Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, fourth from left.

LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A revamped memorial for the four Boy Scout Troop 907 members who died at Forbidden Island on Feb. 18, 1973, was unveiled in a ceremony at the San Antonio Youth Center Wednesday afternoon.

Members of the boys' family and friends, some members of the 23rd Commonwealth Legislature, and Saipan Mayor's Office staff joined Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho in the blessing of the revamped memorial.

Camacho thanked those

in attendance and Hawaiian Rock and Unity Trade for their contributions of the cement and poles for the memorial. He said that he saw the old memorial when he was at the nearby church and did some research as to what it was and decided to give it a much-needed face lift to honor the boys: Francisco S. Santos, Antonio Villanueva, Norbert C. Pangelinan, and Joakin Cabrera.

Maria Ana Santos Oliver, sister of Francisco S. Santos, said after the event, "I would like to send our deepest, sincere, and heartfelt appreciation for making the memorial

for the four boys and thank you very much for everything that has been done. I'm very happy with the results."

Ruth Pangelinan, sister of Norbert Pangelinan said, "We really appreciate this. ... We're really fortunate that our families can always come and see this and remember them."

On that day, a survivor of the incident, Antonio P. Sablan, said he managed to make his way back to land after the waves had knocked him and the four other boys into the water. There were other boy scouts that hadn't made the trek up to the island yet and

were fortunately still far back when the incident happened, so they weren't harmed. However, the four other boys were already swept out by the strong currents and waves.

Name: MICHAELLE MARIE CHONG MUNA AND JENNIFER THORIE CHONG MUNA
Address: P.O. BOX 503511
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 484-2944/ (670) 788-4383/
(670) 285-6921
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter : FCD-GU
of the Petition : CIVIL
for the : ACTION NO.
Appointment of : 23-0160
General :
Guardianship for: NOTICE OF
HEARING

J.R.C.M. :

Minor Child :

By.. :

MICHAELLE
MARIE C. MUNA
JENNIFER THORIE
C. MUNA

Petitioners :

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2023


Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

On surviving the incident, he said, "There's a time when I would reflect back...and I would be having a good time but it takes me back to this day. ...I could have easily missed everything. ...I would have not have had the opportunity to experience having a family

and witness my kids grow up. ...It makes me feel very fortunate, very grateful for having survived. But I still hurt."

On seeing the new memorial, Sablan said, "...I think it's something that people will be proud of and I'm sure that the family members appreciate it."



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-23
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 26, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (IFB-003-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 26, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____



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Cooperative Education Program



Elementary Soccer Team



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Elementary Christmas Program



Appointment to U.S. Naval Academy (Soleil Lamar '23)



Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, please call 322-3320/3850

MTEC scholarship application deadline on May 26

The Marianas Tourism Education Council reminds graduating seniors that applications for the school year 2022-2023 MTEC scholarship program are being accepted until 4:30pm ChST on Friday, May 26, 2023.

The program aims to award a \$1,000 scholarship and a \$500 scholarship for two high school seniors who have been members of a MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club for at least one year in high school. Graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education are eligible to apply.

“Today’s graduating seniors are the leaders of our tourism economy tomorrow, and MTEC continues support them as much as we can,” said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. “We’re looking forward to awarding our 2023 scholarships.”

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements:


- Have at least 1 year membership in a high school MY WAVE Club (Verification letter with signature from MWC advisor, school counselor or administrator)
- Submission of official transcript from last high school attended showing GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Recommendation letter from a current or former teacher, MY WAVE club adviser, counselor or administrator
- Essay submission from applicant, describing career pathway/goals and purpose of study (300-500 words essay limit, typed)
- Three proof of MY WAVE Club active participation
- Submission of the MY WAVE Club/Community Involvement Summary
- Submission of letter(s) of acceptance from a college or university(ies) applied to

MCS Early Bird Special deadline is today

Mount Carmel School’s Early Bird Special deadline is today, Friday, May 5, 2023. After the deadline, families will still be able to avail of the extended deadline with adjusted rates. By June 1, 2023, regular registration rates will apply. This promotion is dedicated


to helping families more affordably secure their student’s seats for the upcoming school year with multiple opportunities to save money. Families with more than one child can also avail of tuition discounts for the 2023 - 2024 school year. The Early Bird registration discount is as follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is \$75 per student (normally \$100). For students in K5, the registration discount is \$100 (normally \$150). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is \$200 per student

(normally \$400). MCS will begin also accepting online applications for financial aid between May 5 and May 31, 2023. Students may apply for one of three types of aid available. The application deadline is May 31, 2023, at 5pm. Only online applications will be accepted. Final award decisions will be announced by June 30, 2023. **(PR)**



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION


As of May 05, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/29/2022 CRM-MD2022-0005	Temporary Beach Concession	Garapan, Saipan	Minor Development	ON HOLD*
2. Northern Marianas College (NMC)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0005	New Construction of Student Center Building	As Terlaje, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 5/9/2023
3. Department of Public Works (DPW)	3/10/2023 CRM-MS2023-0006	Sugar Dock Reconstruction & Dredging Project	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete*/ Public Hearing 5/18/2023
4. Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	3/10/2023 SMS-2003-X-007-A1	Demolition & Construction of Saipan International Commuter Terminal	I Fadang, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete 5/4/2023
5. CNMI United Investment Corporation, Inc.	3/20/2023 APC2023-0029	Temporary staging & stockpiling, ponding basin & backfilling (After-the-Fact)	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 4/28/2023
6. Isa Villas II De, LLC.	4/5/2023 SMS-2017-X-111-A1	Reduction of Phase II of the Isa Villas II, LLC Multi-family Housing Development	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved 05/04/2023
7. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc. dba Sea Wind Marine Sports Club	4/13/2023 SLR-2023-003	Commercial windsurfing, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding & snorkeling	Saipan & Managaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 4/26/2023
8. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	4/14/2023 SSm-2023-009	Garapan Sewer Mains & Manholes Replacement	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 4/27/2023
9. Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	4/21/2023 SSm-2023-010	Dry-Dock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 4/26/2023
10. Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive	4/21/2023 SLR-2023-004	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 4/26/2023
11. JB International Holding Limited dba Uncle J Dive	4/25/2023 SLR-2020-X-013-R5	Commercial SCUBA Diving Operations	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 4/27/2023
12. Rota Mayor's Office	4/28/2023 RPlm-2023-004	Construction of Restroom Facility	Teteto Beach Strand, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
13. Saipan Marine Corporation	5/1/2023 SLR-2023-011	Installation of Mooring Buoy B Tanapag Harbor	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
14. Hee Jung Lee dba Gaja	5/2/2023 SLR-2023-012-R2 (Formerly APC2022-0004)	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
15. Rota Mayor's Office	5/2/2023 RSm-2023-005	Recreational Enhancements	CPA Lot # 014-R-60, Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*


NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM](https://WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Retail Concession"
CPA-RFP-005-23
for:
CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM



AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. ChST, Friday, April 28, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: April 24, 2023



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios and the Honorable Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) would like to notify the general public of the CNMI's 4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the DPW Technical Services Highway Office and from the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for review and comments. Written comments pertaining to the CNMI DPW FHWA Funded Projects must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Office, at the Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, 2nd Flr, Suite 211 on Beach Road or via email to lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com or ldcs.dpw@gmail.com. For COTA's FTA Funded Projects please submit comments to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) located at Lower Base Dr., Saipan or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp no later than May 22, 2023, 2:00 pm.

Should you have any questions regarding the TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Ms. Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator of the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division-Highway Office at (670) 234-9828 and for COTA's FTA Funded Projects, you may contact Mrs. Alfreda Camacho Maratita, Special Assistant for Public Transportation of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at (670) 664-2682 or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp.

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division Highway Office 4-YearTerritorial Transportation Improvement Plan
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL	
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program	Admin	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
I	Songsong	10	Hazard Elimination - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
II	Island-Wide	201/202/26	Hazard Elimination	Construction	\$ 500,000.00				
				PE Design					
II	San Jose	205	Road and Drainage Improvements	Construction		\$ 2,100,000.00			
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination Chalan Kiya to Quartermaster	PE					
				ROW					
				Construction		\$ 2,500,000.00			
				CM					
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE-Design	\$ 200,000.00				
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM-DPW					
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 1,000,000.00				
				CM	\$ 200,000.00				
III	Talofofo	36	Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev Phase I	Construction	\$ 4,000,000.00				
III	Airport Road	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements						
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 500,000.00			
				CM					
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction			\$ 1,350,000.00		
				CM-DPW					
III	Island-Wide	30	Marpi Speed TablesConstruction	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		304	Dandan Resurfacing	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00		
		30	Navy Hill to Puerto Rico Resurfacing	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		301	Koblerville Road Hazard Elimination	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		35	Airport Road Roundabout	Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00	
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:						\$ 603,225.00	\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)							\$ 2,444,086.0	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI						\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Annual Allocation:						\$ 4,130,112.00	\$ 4,213,440.00	\$ 4,296,600.00	\$ 4,379,760.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,778,337.00	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Coronavirus Recovery Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act						\$ 842,375.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Earmarked Funds						\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)						\$ 15,620,712.02	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)						\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02	\$ 59,598.02

II. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	FIXED ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL
	SAIPAN		Operations Asssitance and Program Administration		\$ 1,893,872.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,545,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations			\$ 2,373,645.00		
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Four (4) ADA Accessible Transit Vans		\$ 420,000.00			
	SAIPAN		Ferry Feasibility Study and Transportation Masterplan	Professional Services	\$ 800,000.00			
	SAIPAN		CNMI COVID-19 Research Development Grant		\$ 300,000.00			
	SAIPAN	ALL	A/E Design and Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters	PE Design	\$ 100,000.0			
				Construction		\$ 3,520,000.00		
				CM		\$ 880,000.00		
	SAIPAN	3	A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Bus Transfer Stations at Northern Marianas College, Garapan, and Kagman	PE Design	\$ 80,000.00			
				Construction		\$ 750,000.00		
				CM		\$ 70,000.00		
	SAIPAN		A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Covered Bus Parking at the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility	PE Design		\$ 100,000.00		
				Construction			\$ 2,200,000.00	
				CM			\$ 700,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 3,593,872.00	\$ 5,320,000.00	\$ 2,900,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Putin's global public enemy No. 1, but don't forget the danger Kim Jong Un brings

Russian President Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine has passed the 14-month mark, with no resolution in sight. It also has come with a potent, unintended consequence.

It has made the world forget about North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

Western powers have been justifiably preoccupied with Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, where Russian and Ukrainian troops have been locked in a war of attrition reminiscent of World War I trench warfare. In the meantime, however, the North Korean Communist regime has been hard at work stepping up its nuclear arsenal—in both technological advancement and inventory.

North Korea launched at least 95 ballistic and other missiles in 2022, the most Pyongyang has tested in the country's history, according to The New York Times. This year, the pace hasn't let up. As of April 13, North Korea had conducted at least 12 missile tests, Time magazine reported.

Kim's nuclear arsenal includes short-range capability that can threaten the assets of the U.S. and its allies in the region. North Korea also has successfully tested a long-range, intercontinental ballistic missile with solid fuel technology. Those missiles do not have to go through an hourslong fueling process before the launch, and thus can be fired within minutes. That makes the weapon harder to detect and bring down pre-emptively.

North Korea and Kim's regime were foremost on the minds of President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, as they met in Washington last week. That meeting yielded an agreement between the two countries in which South Korea will play an integral part in U.S. strategic planning for deployment of nuclear weapons against North Korea in any conflict with Pyongyang, while Seoul also agrees to not develop its own nuclear weapons capability.

To put an exclamation point on the pact, the U.S. is dispatching a nuclear ballistic missile submarine to South Korea for a visit.

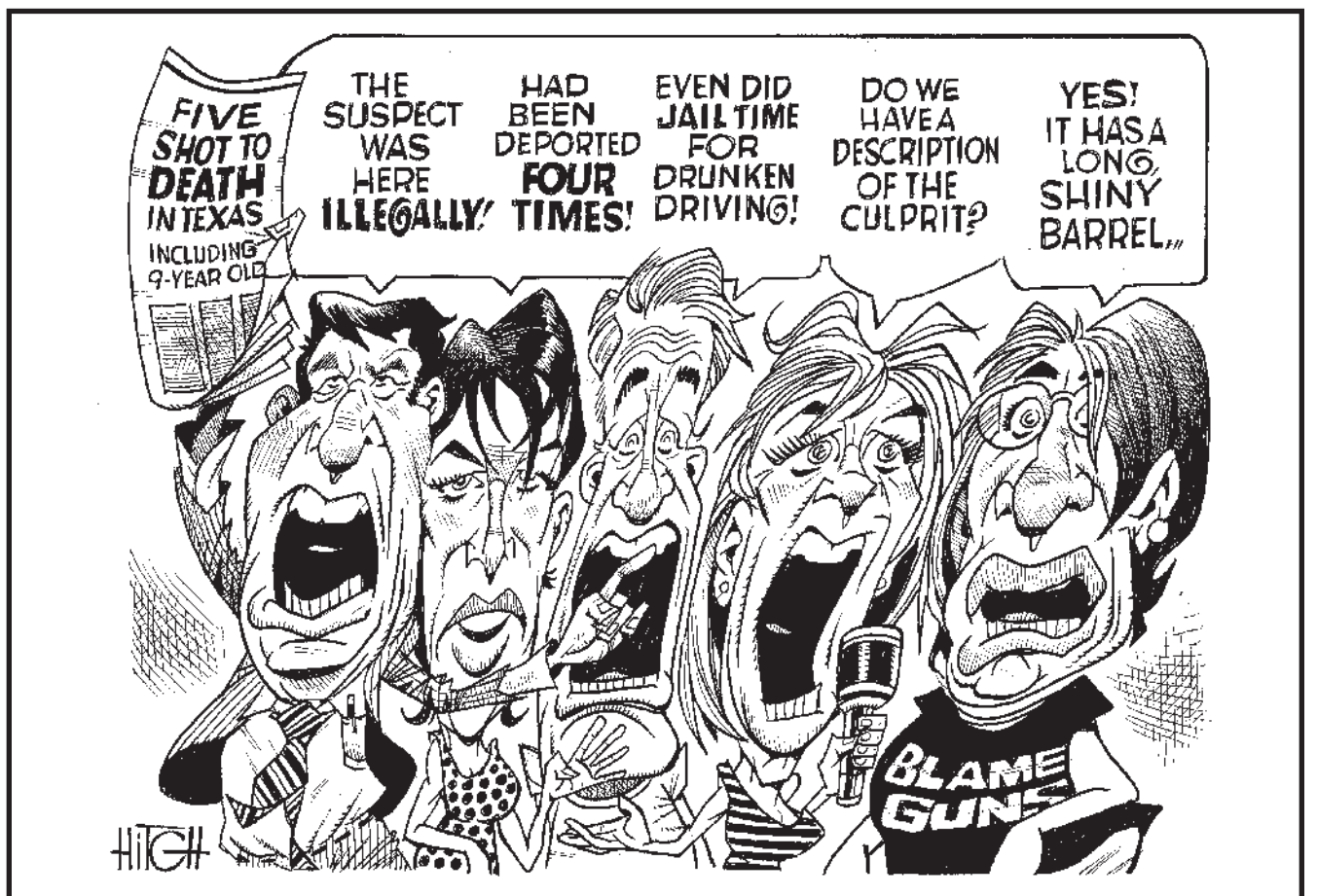
Given how much headway Kim has made in beefing up his nuclear weapons capability, the agreement, dubbed Washington Declaration, should have happened sooner. Nevertheless, it's an important step toward firewalling South Korea and other U.S. allies in the region from the reckless belligerence of the North Korean regime.

Moving forward, the lesson that Biden and other Western leaders should glean: Do not treat North Korea as some backburner priority.

For decades, American presidents have floundered in crafting the right foreign policy approach toward Pyongyang. Bill Clinton and George W. Bush tried bargaining with North Korea but failed to steer it away from nuclear weapons pursuit. President Barack Obama took the tack of "strategic patience," a policy of imposing isolation and sanctions on Pyongyang until it acquiesced. That didn't work—isolation is a defining characteristic of North Korea's existence.

Donald Trump turned American foreign policy toward North

See **PUTIN'S** on Page 11



Why the loss of newspaper cultural critics hurts us as citizens

I miss the critics.

The theater, music, movie, fashion, book, dance and architectural critics who once populated the nation's media have been systematically eliminated at our beleaguered newspapers. As print circulation and advertising have declined, journalism's new business model has prized clicks over culture.

In Chicago, Minneapolis and Washington, cities where I worked as an editor, the arts organizations and venues far outnumber athletic teams, yet sports coverage remains robust while arts coverage has become frail.

Critics have long been indispensable guides in teaching us how to be cultural citizens, illuminating our interior world with ideas and providing history through the lens of arts commentary. They grow our horizons, prompting us to imagine different perspectives. They are needed now more than ever as our country grapples with small ideas, diminished vision, polar thinking and insularism.

Recently, I've grieved the loss of The Washington Post's legendary critic Sarah Kaufman, whom I worked with for eight years. When she was laid off in November, she was one of just two full-time dance writers remaining at a major news organization. Left standing is Gia Kourlas at The New York Times.

Only the second dance critic to win a Pulitzer Prize—the first was the Post's Alan Kriegsman in 1976—Kaufman will be inducted into the Medill School of Journalism's Hall of Achievement at Northwestern University on May 18. (She received her master's degree in journalism there in 1987.)

It was from a dance critic's essays that I found my calling as an arts editor. I started reading The New Yorker as a pretentious college student desperate to be an intellectual. Arlene Croce taught me more about dance than I learned even at the Edythe B. Rayspis Professional School of the Dance in Berwyn. With her dazzling descriptive and acerbic essays, Croce introduced an art world of beauty, inspiration and insider intelligentsia.

Her reign at The New Yorker lasted until 1998, but she harmed her reputation in 1994 with her piece "Discussing the Undiscussable," in which she boycotted Bill T. Jones' "Still/Here," a multimedia piece about AIDS, death and suffering. The choreography was informed by real people living with fatal diseases, as well as Jones' own HIV diagnosis. Croce dismissed it as "victim art." It is now considered a masterpiece.

When the myopic Croce did not foresee that dance was pushing beyond the George Balanchine world of pretty, the path opened for critics such as Kaufman. In fact, one of the pieces in Kaufman's 2010 Pulitzer-winning portfolio concluded that dance companies' infatuation with New York City Ballet's artistic director, who died in 1983, hindered the art form.

Of Balanchine, who choreographed more than 400 works, Kaufman wrote in 2009: "In his wake, ballet's range of expres-

By **CHRISTINE LEDBETTER**

Chicago Tribune

Christine Ledbetter is a former senior arts editor at The Washington Post. She lives in downstate Illinois where she writes about culture and politics.



sion has narrowed, not expanded. Gone, in new work, is theater, spectacle, satire, flesh-and-blood characters, the ache of real life, the escape offered by a sharp, piercing little story. Now more than ever, American ballet, artistically speaking, is a homogeneous entity. We are a thoroughly Balanchine nation."

Kaufman's take on dance was broad. She was interested in everyday movement, whether it was chefs in a kitchen or roadies at a rock concert. She wrote about a wedding dance party in St. Paul, Minnesota, described Cary Grant's grace, and picked six drag queens to follow on YouTube.

She reported on the #MeToo movement, including abuses at New York City Ballet. She covered Alvin Ailey dancers' boycott of a fundraising gala in 2018 because of unmet salary demands. She wrote about how the international dance community mobilized to help Ukrainian dancers.

Her shimmering prose ran for more than 25 years in the Post. In her final newspaper review, on Ballet Hispanico's "Doña Perón," she wrote: "Dance artists brim with illuminating stories to tell about our world and our lives, and I dearly hope that dancer-led stories continue to be embraced, examined and celebrated. This isn't the time, it seems to me, for a narrow outlook. This seems a particularly important time to enlarge it."

A sanguine Kaufman is moving forward teaching arts criticism at Harvard Extension School, as well as working on a book about writing. She, like many critics before her, is discovering there is great satisfaction to be found outside the rigid confines of a newsroom.

It is the readers and dance companies that fare worse. Since she left, we have missed her take on Rihanna's Super Bowl halftime show; Jenna Ortega's viral Wednesday Addams dance; United Ukrainian Ballet's performance at the Kennedy Center; the robot's sinister movements in the film "M3GAN"; and the revival of "Bob Fosse's Dancin'" on Broadway.

Without informed, interrogative critics who champion the art form, we are left with the endless navel-gazing of TikTok dancers.

I plan to attend Medill's ceremony honoring Kaufman along

See **WHY** on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘You can prevent suicide,’ we’re often told. But sometimes, you just can’t

By ALEXANDRA M. LORD
THE BALTIMORE SUN

“You can prevent suicide.”

In summer, the sign on my neighbor’s lawn is half hidden by flowering bushes, but in the early spring, when suicide rates reach all-time highs, it is visible just a few feet from the street.

Some days I drive out of my way to ignore it. Other days, I purposely drive past it.

Whether I avoid or confront it, the sign’s deceptively simplistic solution leaves me frustrated. It seems to imply that my family and I could have—should have—prevented my father’s suicide.

We couldn’t.

Like many people who choose suicide, my father hid his intentions from his family, partners and friends. He was, everyone agreed, not the type of man to end his own life. And yet on a beautiful spring day in 1987, he did just that.

My family’s experience is not unique. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that an American chooses suicide roughly every 11 minutes. Over 50% of Americans will experience the suicide of a relative or close friend. Contrary to popular belief, those who are determined to end their lives often do so, even in the face of sustained efforts at prevention.

Just as the causes of suicide are varied and complex, so, too, are the factors that shape our ability to successfully prevent it.

The events in my own family illustrate the difficulties inherent in preventing suicide.

My father’s decision to end his life was a calculated one. He carefully planned his death. He chose a time when my mother was out of town. He opted to do this after I, his youngest child, had left home for college.

The bridge from which he leapt allowed for no easy rescue. And he filled his pockets with rocks to ensure that death would be inevitable. This was not, as some suicide attempts might be, a call for help. It was a final decision from which there could be no turning back.

In researching my family’s long and complicated history of suicide, I have seen a similar pattern play out over and over. Like my father, my great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather also chose

to end their own lives. As physicians, both men knew, and used, the exact dose of morphine necessary to ensure that there would be no turning back from death.

The more I look at my family’s multigenerational history of suicide, the more I struggle with the difficulties inherent in suicide prevention. I may never know exactly what led to my father’s or ancestors’ actions so many years ago, but I know that what led them there must have been an excruciating pain.

On some days, I fantasize about stopping my father. On other days, I recognize the power of the pain that drove him to the bridge. On most days, I do both—imagine a life in which he did not choose to end his life and imagine a life in which I am at peace with his decision.

Even as I mentally rewrite the events that occurred on that spring day so many years ago, I know that depression can be as difficult to treat as cancer. And like cancer, it can return. Again and again.

Peppy drug ads may assure us of the contrary, but the truth is depression sometimes defies treatment.

Decades after my father’s death, depression remains misunderstood among the general public, which makes individuals reluctant to ask for help. This is especially true for middle-aged men, who have the highest suicide rate of any demographic.

Despite my family’s long history of suicide and depression, I don’t have any simple answers about how we should think about suicide and suicide prevention.

There is, however, one thing I do know.

If we are serious about preventing suicide, we may want to begin with an understanding that individuals alone can’t always prevent suicide.

This is especially important for relatives and close friends of people who die by suicide to hear. This is, after all, a demographic also at higher risk of suicide. Telling them that they can, and should have, prevented a suicide will only exacerbate the depression and suicidal thoughts they experience in the wake of a suicide.

But all that may be too much for a yard sign.

Alexandra M. Lord is a historian who has written extensively about medicine and taboos. She is currently researching and writing a book about suicide in America over the past 120 years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

I am truly humbled and honored by the governor’s decision to appoint me—only the second African-American to be a member of a governor’s administration. I am presently working with the cannabis committee in the House of Representatives to generate a reform package of bills meant to rehabilitate the cannabis tourism industry and the Senate on hemp legislation that you will be hearing more about later. It should be noted that the hemp industry actually has more potential for generating revenues than just cannabis tourism.

The CNMI is fortunate we have an honorable governor and lieutenant governor who disregarded my previous politics against them in choosing to select the best and right for the CNMI over seeking political revenge, which is the first I’ve ever seen in the CNMI and for that Gov. Palacios and Lt. Gov.

Apatang will forever have my respect, loyalty, and admiration. But at the same time, readers also need to know you can’t keep a good man down. Ralph Torres and Sixto did everything they could to keep me from being involved in the cannabis tourism industry, just used me to do the heavy lifting for their political aspirations and trashed me when it was done. They threw away over 50 pages that I wrote and then tried to use other people to execute a plan that I virtually made except for the regulations that were virtually copied and pasted from Oregon’s laws.

After waiting and wanting for years, I’m now getting my chance to finally finish what I started with cannabis tourism and the hemp industry. I thank God and I can’t thank enough Gov. Palacios, the House cannabis committee, and the Senate.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

PUTIN’S

From Page 10

Korea into a global laughingstock. He swooned over Kim, becoming the first U.S. president to ever meet a North Korean head of state, afterward proclaiming nonsensically in a tweet, “There is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea.” Two more meetings between Trump and Kim followed, and all the while, North Korea kept testing and ramping up its nuclear and missile capabilities.

Biden hasn’t had any success either. But accepting the reality that Kim has tied his regime’s survival to nuclear weapons expansion—and that the North Korean leader’s arsenal is fast becoming a pressing, worrisome threat—is crucial for the Biden administration. The agreements made with Yoon reflect that understanding.

That realization should have happened years ago. After John Bolton departed as Trump’s national security adviser, he told NPR that any policy aimed at cajoling Pyongyang into

relinquishing its nuclear program amounted to wishful thinking. “They’re happy to sell that same bridge over and over again, but there’s no serious chance they will ever voluntarily give it up,” Bolton said. “The more time they have, the more they can overcome all the technological and scientific difficulties to perfecting a deliverable nuclear weapons capability.”

Putin and Kim are very different leaders, but they have similarities even beyond their bellicosity and nuclear arsenals. They understand the value of playing for time, and they rely heavily on brinkmanship to achieve their aims. Putin remains an urgent, dangerous foe for the U.S. and its allies.

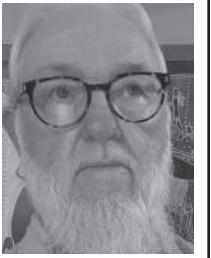
But it would be a grave mistake for the West to underestimate the threat Kim poses.

Ukraine is—and must be—a top-shelf priority for U.S. foreign policy. But so should North Korea.

In the Merry Month of May

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



This month I’ll have some political lampoons, some parody tunes, and nods to ancient runes before June. Time to tune in. Let’s begin.

On sonnet norms and other forms I use two common forms and a few I have developed. The Shakespearean or Elizabethan sonnet consists of 14 lines with three quatrains and ends with a rhyming couplet.

The Petrarchan sonnet originated in 14th century Italy. It begins with an octave of eight lines as an opening statement, followed by a six-line resolution addressing what was presented in the first eight lines.

I have developed two new forms by fusing limericks and senryu into sonnets. A “limeronnet” combines three limericks which each have five lines on the same subject. A “senryu sonnet” takes three lines of a senryu, puts them in one line and has 14 lines on one related theme. Senryu differ from a haiku by dealing with human nature while haiku focuses musing and reflection on the world of nature.

I also write experimental sonnets using “abecedarian” and “acrostic” elements. You’ll find an acrostic sonnet from five years ago below.

‘Nevertheless, She Persisted’: An acrostic sonnet
(Words spoken by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell after he could not get U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren to stop making her point on the Senate floor. Sen. Warren said, “I have no intention of yielding.”)

U.S. senator from Massachusetts, born in Oklahoma,
Elizabeth Warren is her name, persistence her fame
NEVER afraid to confront hypocrisy
THE Senate president said, “Yield the floor”
LESS you forget what she did
SHE read the letter he objected to and
PERSISTED despite McConnell’s objection she said
I “am very proud of my heritage”
HAVE you remembered now
NO one should forget her
INTENTION was good and sincere
OF course we respect her
YIELDING to none, domestic or foreign.
Thank you, Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The above poem was in the Saipan Tribune on April 26, 2018. Sen. Elizabeth Warren continues serving in the Senate today.

Sympatico Sonnet for a Former Student

Reflections on a former student’s mental strength
Her courage to continue and keep on going
My thoughts are brief just a sonnets length
About her search for continuous self-knowing
Shakespeare wrote, “Double, double, toil and trouble”
It comes and it goes all throughout our life long
From burned rice to a broken relationship bubble
Struggling to stay alive, stay sane, and strong
Falling down, getting up, and going down again
Searching for answers everywhere, TV and books
Often times help from sisters, brothers and friends
Wisdom coming from her own internal looks
She got it by asking questions, and seeking out
She’ll sleep well with her understanding no doubt.

(by Joey Connolly; May 2, 2023)

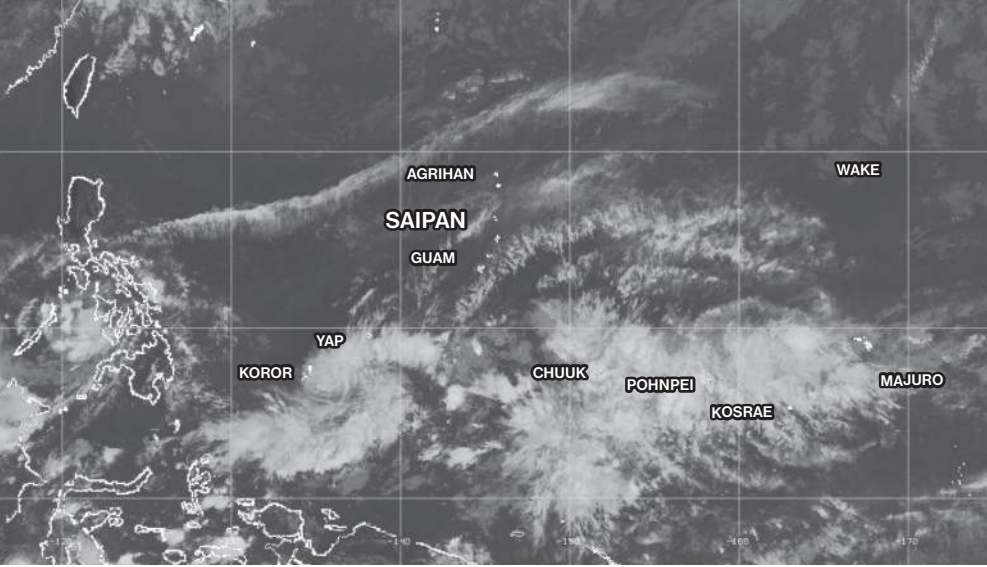
WHY

From Page 10

with seven other alumni. It is almost certain that I will tear up as the nation’s second-to-last dance critic is inducted. She won’t be forgotten; she’s a singular sensation.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Scattered showers. Partly sunny,		Scattered showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
84°	78°	83°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weather is pretty quiet this morning as the Doppler radar shows nothing more than perhaps a few sprinkles moving through the coastal waters, with visible imagery showing higher clouds brushing Guam from convection south of the Marianas, and just a few clouds elsewhere. Seas are in the 6 to 7 foot range based on the latest observations, with a water temperature of 84 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:15 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	-	5:56 AM	7:08 PM
Sunday	-	6:43 AM	8:09 PM
Monday	-	7:36 AM	9:13 PM
Tuesday	-	8:34 AM	10:16 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	68° / 64°	
Beijing	Showers	73° / 56°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°	
London	Thunderstorms	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Light Rain	60° / 52°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	96° / 80°	
Melbourne	Showers	65° / 49°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	74° / 58°	
Paris	Light Rain	68° / 52°	
Busan	Rain/Wind	68° / 63°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	76° / 53°	
Salem	Sunny	77° / 56°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	58° / 51°	
Seoul	Rain	68° / 58°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy/Wind	77° / 65°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	62° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:10 AM	Low Tide	0.93	
6:46 AM	High Tide	1.96	
1:39 PM	Low Tide	0.09	
8:16 PM	High Tide	1.94	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Kadun Pika cooking contest at ‘Taste’

Cooks and chefs, you’re up!

The Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting entries for its Kadun Pika Cooking Contest on June 3, 2023, at the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan.

Registration is free, open to participants age 18 or older, and limited to 10 entries. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top winners: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$200 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. Participants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and any other equipment needed, and the MVA will provide one family bag stewing chicken and one 8-foot table. Participants may register one or two people per entry. Entries will be judged based on taste/ flavor, tenderness, balance of spiciness, and presentation.

Complete rules and registration forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar or by contacting MVA community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or (670) 664-3200.

“Every year the entries in our cooking competitions seem to get more tasty,” said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. “We

encourage our local chefs and home cooks to sign up for a chance to win some great cash prizes and bragging rights at this year’s Taste.”

The Taste of the Marianas is slated for every Saturday evening in June 2023. The HANMI/Triple J Five Star Wholesale NMTech Culinary Bistek Competition Cook-off will be held on June 24. Additional events are being planned for June 10 and 17.

The Taste of the Marianas features highlights of the various cuisine found in the multi-cultural Marianas. The festival will feature affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales from 6pm to 10pm nightly and until 11pm on the final night.

Participating food vendors this year are Chagi Norf, Chow

Time, Cristiano’s, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Furusato, Herman’s Modern Bakery, Island Grinz, Java Joe’s, Kamakazee’s, Kinpachi Restaurant, Korean BAB, Loco Taco, Majesty Restaurant, Matty’s BBQ, Pho Tam, Shirley’s Coffee Shop, Surf Club/ Great Harvest, T-Bar, The Hut, Tyler’s Gelatte Stone, and Vilynn’s BBQ. Drink vendors are Marpac and Westco.

The event is co-organized by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additional sponsors include *Marianas Variety*, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Dave Electronics, Hawaiian Rock Products, EST Rental, Jonny’s Bar & Grill, New XO Market, Triple J Five Star Wholesale, M&C LLC Construction, and Northern Marianas Technical Institute. *(MVA)*

SHRM membership meeting on May 12

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host a membership meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom, from 11:30pm to 2:30pm. Doors will open at 11am.

John J. Rivera, director of HR & Corporate Development at Citadel Pacific, Ltd., will guide SHRM members

in unlocking personality type and provide tools to leverage the understanding of people in the workplace, improve leadership, and socially engineer more conducive working environments.

The following fees apply:

- \$30 for members
- \$35 for non-members

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited. *(PR)*



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LED STREET LIGHT LUMINAIRES AND MATERIALS FOR THE STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT, SAIPAN.

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires and materials to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-021, Supply and Delivery of LED Streetlight Luminaires and Materials for the Streetlight Efficiency Project, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee T. Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org; Jonathan Camacho, CUC Power Division Junior Engineer via email jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org; and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

Bettina G. Terlaje
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

THE POSITION: FIELD SUPERVISOR

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: LIASING WITH ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAMS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT DESIGN IS ACCURATE BEFORE WORK COMMENCES; ORDERING AND SCHEDULING THE DELIVERY OF ALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT; ACTING AS THE MAIN POINT OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FIELD AND THE MAIN OFFICE; MANAGING THE WORK SCHEDULES AND TIME-CARDS FOR ALL FIELD STAFF; PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO ON-SITE STAFF, SUB-CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER PARTIES; INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS; ENSURING THAT SAFETY POLICIES ARE STRICTLY ADHERED TO; REVIEWS PROJECT PROGRESSES TO ENSURE THAT DEADLINES ARE MET.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: MUST BE AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

EXPERIENCE: MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS: MUST HAVE PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN ANY CONSTRUCTION SKILLED TRADE (ELECTRICIAN, CARPENTER, ETC.); MUST HAVE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT AND GUIDELINES; MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO READ DRAWINGS, PLANS, AND BLUEPRINTS; WITH EXCELLENT ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS; MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AND REPORT EFFECTIVELY WITH EXCELLENT PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITIES.

JOB SITE: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HOW TO APPLY: SUBMIT OR MAIL YOUR APPLICATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS TO:

MICHELLE V. RUEDA
COMPTROLLER
RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION
OFFICE ADDRESS: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 504974, SAIPAN, MP 96950

EMAIL ADDRESS: MICHELLE@RNVCONSTRUCTION.COM
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1(670) 235-8778

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

THE POSITION: ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 2

JOB DESCRIPTION: PLAN AND SCHEDULE PROJECTS; ESTIMATE THE TIME AND MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE PROJECTS; MAINTAIN RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ONGOING COMPLETION OF PROJECTS; ENSURE THAT WORK IS COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE AND TO CODE; INSPECT AND ASSESS THE WORK DONE BY THE ELECTRICAL STAFF; SUPERVISE ELECTRICIANS IN THEIR WORK, AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION; OVERSEE THE PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON-SITE; ENSURE THAT WORK COMPLIES WITH ALL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS; TROUBLESHOOT MAJOR SYSTEM FAILURES AND EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS; PROVIDE MOTIVATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ELECTRICIANS WHEN NECESSARY; CONSULT WITH BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, AND OTHER WORKERS ON-SITE.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: MUST BE AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

EXPERIENCE: MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AS AN ELECTRICIAN

OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS: MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) AND OTHER RELATED ELECTRICAL CODES; MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF ELECTRICAL WORKS INCLUDING, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ELECTRICAL PIPE INSTALLATION, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS; SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM; AND TROUBLESHOOTING ELECTRICAL WIRING

JOB SITE: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1(670) 235-8778

Business

360 Revolving Restaurant *now open* for lunch



360 Revolving Restaurant's chicken inasal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The only revolving restaurant in the CNMI is reopening for lunch in yet another sign that local businesses are embracing the return to normalcy following the past couple of years under the cloud of COVID-19.

"We reopened for lunch just hoping we will get enough lunch traffic to justify staying open constantly for lunch. We will be serving our entire menu and offering a 10% discount on the whole menu," said 360 Revolving Restaurant co-owner Andrew Colburn.

The discount is applicable only to local customers and diners wishing to avail of the promotion must show proof of local residency such as driver's license.

Through the years, 360 Revolving Restaurant has

become known for its signature burgers like the Monster Burger, Spicy Taco Burger, Pika Burger, and 360 Naked Burger, just to name a few.

Their grilled items are also a must-try with grilled pork chops, grilled garlic shrimp, and grilled mahi-mahi on the top of the list.

Reflecting on Saipan's melting pot

of cultures, 360 Revolving Restaurant also has a wide selection of Asian dishes like sizzling sisig, chicken inasal, and chicken teriyaki.

Pining for south-of-the-border fare, Texas fajitas, fabulous wet burritos, carne asada, and pulled pork, chicken, or beef tacos are also on the menu.

You also won't get wrong ordering spaghetti and meatballs or shrimp penne ala vodka. Also not to be snubbed are 360 Revolving Restaurant's array of classic pizza flavors—supreme beef, meat lovers, pepperoni, and the much-maligned but everyone's secret favorite Hawaiian pizza.

For dessert, southern bread



360 Revolving Restaurant's cheeseburger with bacon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pudding in bourbon cream sauce is always a sweet-tooth's delight.

Aside from reopening for lunch and the 10% discount promotion, 360 Revolving Restaurant also has happy hour everyday from 5pm to 7pm where drinks and appetizers are off 25%.

Colburn, who along with his business partners acquired the restaurant that crowns the old Nauru Building around four years ago, said business has been tough the past couple of years especially with the pandemic.

He also didn't mince words after not being considered for the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together or the BOOST grant program.

"It has really been tough, trying to compete with all the restaurants that got all that free money. We received zero, although we served the island all during the pandemic. It's not fair! We just survived, but it is getting harder and harder...not sure we will survive unless something positive happens," he said.

Before taking the helm at 360 Revolving Restaurant, Colburn operated a restaurant in Honduras for 10 years so he certainly knows his chops in the food and beverage industry.

Asked what makes his new

restaurant head and shoulders above the rest, aside from the obvious 360-degree view and the hourly rotation, Colburn said the service and food at 360 Revolving Restaurant is the best on Saipan, bar none.

360 Revolving Restaurant is open every day from 11am to 2pm for lunch and 5am to 9pm for dinner. It can comfortably seat close to 200 customers. For more information and for reservations, call (670) 789-2523.

Taiwan trade chief warns against 'unnecessary fear' of China

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taiwan's chief trade representative says his country's semiconductor makers will expand production in the U.S. as much as they can afford to do so, but he insists Taiwan remains an ideal place for that production and other U.S. trade, business and investment, despite tensions with China.

John Chen-Chung Deng spoke to The Associated Press on a visit this week to Washington, where he is leading a Taiwanese trade delegation and meeting with U.S. trade officials.

Deng's visit comes at a time of intensifying efforts to harden the U.S. and Taiwanese militaries and economies against any threat from rival China. As part of this, President Joe Biden and Con-

gress are moving to boost semiconductor production on U.S. soil in the event of any conflict disrupting exports from Asia, especially from Taiwan.

Semiconductors make electronics ranging from phones to electric cars to advanced weapons run, and Taiwan produces more than 90% of the world's more advanced semiconductors.

At the same time, Pentagon leaders have been touring the Indo-Pacific to rally regional allies in bolstering military defenses and deterrence. A House committee last month war-gamed a hypothetical attack by China on Taiwan and U.S. positions as part of a bipartisan congressional effort to find specific ways to boost deterrence.

United plans to hire 15,000, adding to surge in airline jobs

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines expecting a hectic summer travel season are planning to hire thousands of new workers this year, lifting a job market that has been hit by layoffs in technology and turmoil in the banking industry.

United Airlines said Wednesday that it hired 7,000 new workers in the first four months of this year and plans to hit 15,000 new hires by year-end, matching the number it hired last year.

By 2026, United projects adding 50,000 workers to a workforce that was about 93,000 at the start of this year.

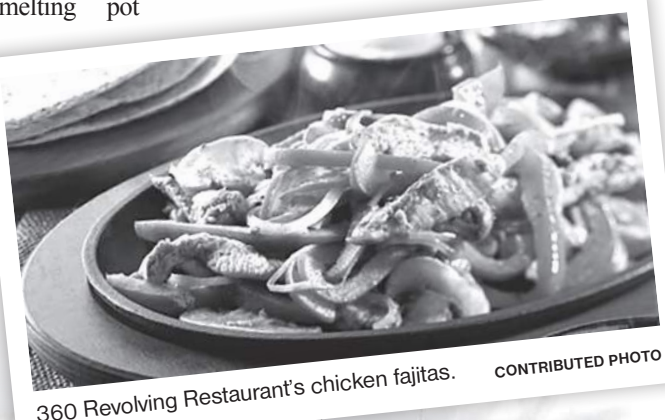
"We are in hiring mode here at United Airlines," Kate Gebo, the company's executive vice president of human resources, told reporters. Airline officials said they already have enough pilots to operate the peak summer schedule.

Airlines have been in a hir-

ing frenzy since being caught understaffed when air travel bounced back from the depths of the pandemic more quickly than anticipated. Shortages of pilots and flight attendants contributed to a jump in the rates of canceled and delayed flights last year.

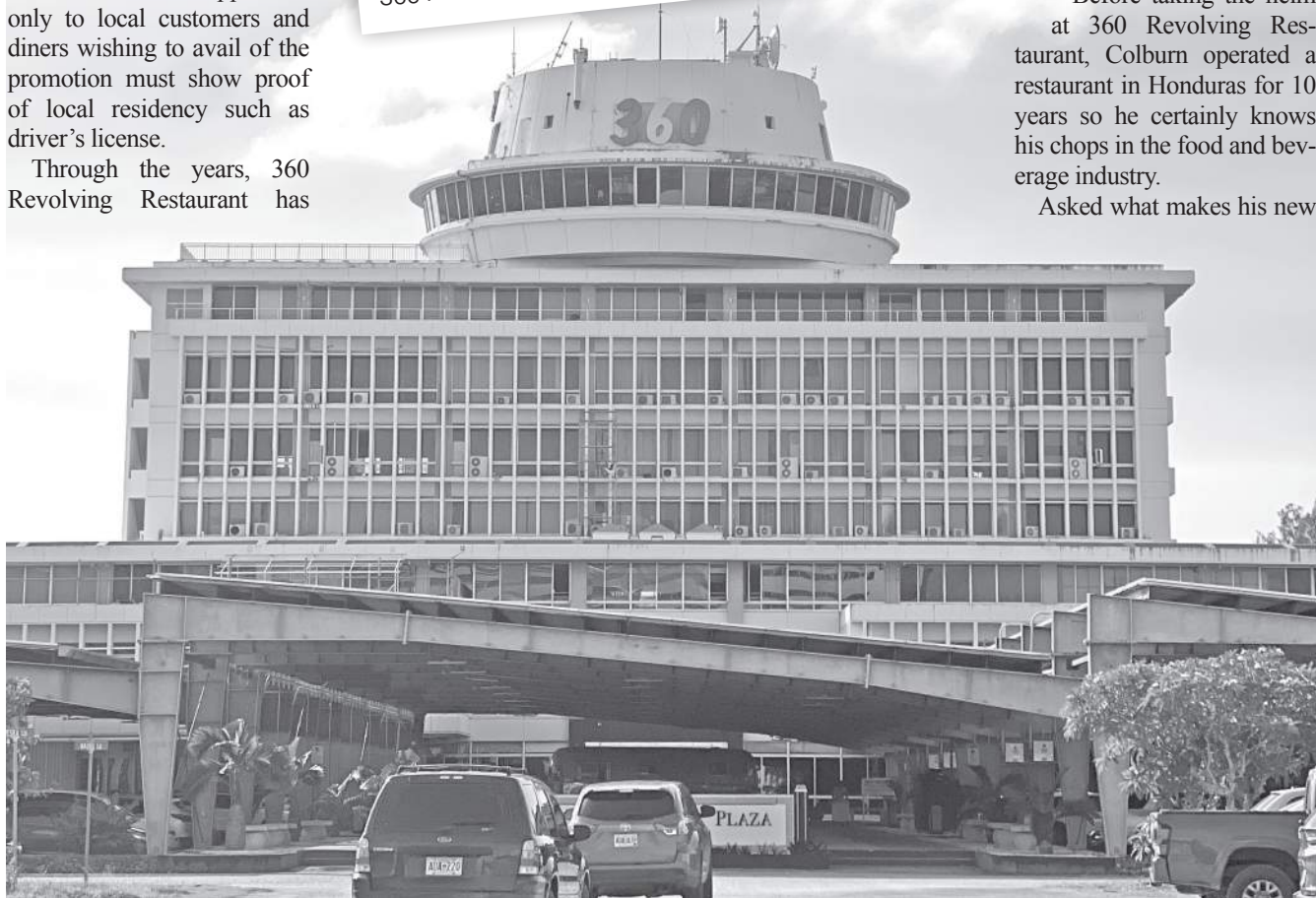
The nation's passenger airlines received \$54 billion in taxpayer money to keep people on the payroll through the pandemic, and they were prohibited from making layoffs, but they got around that prohibition by paying workers to quit or take early retirement.

Since bottoming out in November 2020, airline-industry jobs have jumped by more than 117,000—an increase of 32%—to more than 480,000 as of this February, the latest figures available from the Transportation Department. That is a 5% increase over the pre-pandemic peak.



360 Revolving Restaurant's chicken fajitas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



360 Revolving Restaurant is can't miss especially if you're in Susupe—just look for the tallest building around.

MARK RABAGO

Nation

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A decade ago, it was a safe bet that anyone stopped by U.S. authorities at the southern border was probably Mexican. That's no longer the case, complicating Biden administration efforts to prevent a swell of migration when it lifts pandemic-related asylum limits next week.

Now, people come from dozens of countries, with large showings from Peru, Venezuela, Haiti, India, Russia and elsewhere. Only about a third are from Mexico—down from 85% in 2011.

With the expiration on May 11 of Title 42—which suspended migrants' rights to asylum to prevent the spread of COVID-19—more people are expected to arrive.

Illegal crossings tumbled after President Joe Biden announced asylum restrictions in January, but they have risen since mid-April. Brandon Judd, president of the National Border Patrol Council, said they have been hovering around 7,200 daily, up from about 5,200 in March.

The administration plans to rapidly screen migrants and quickly send home those who don't qualify. But people will be treated differently depending on their nationality.

A look at how the plans vary depending on where the migrants are from:

CHNV

Not a catchy acronym, it stands for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans. In December, these four nationalities accounted for 40% of all people stopped at the border. By March, they made up only 3%.

Biden announced Jan. 5 that up to 30,000 people from the four countries could enter on parole every month if they applied online and had a financial backer. Mexico agreed to take back the same number from those countries who en-



U.S. Customs and Border Protection Port of Brownsville held a full-scale readiness exercise at Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, with Federal and area law enforcement including U.S. National Guard as a large influx of migrants continue to cross the Rio Grande from Matamoros, Mexico into Brownsville, Texas.

Why nationalities matter as US braces for MIGRATION SURGE

tered the U.S. illegally. Texas and other Republican-led states have challenged such broad use of parole authority; a trial is scheduled June 15 in Victoria, Texas.

Mexico said late Tuesday that it would continue taking back people from the four countries who were expelled from the United States. Combined with parole for those who apply outside the United States, it is a carrot-and-stick approach that was first applied to Ukrainians after Russia's invasion.

Cubans, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans have benefited from their governments' refusal to accept deportation flights, though Cuba accepted its first since December 2020 on Monday and has pledged to accept more. Haiti is wracked by gang-fueled violence, making flights there a major challenge.

CENTRAL AMERICA'S NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Families and unaccompanied children from Guatemala,

Honduras and El Salvador largely drove migration to the U.S. border throughout the last decade. Then came Title 42.

Mexico agreed to take back people from what are known as Northern Triangle countries from the start of Title 42 in March 2020. Many have been waiting months, or years, for it to end.

The U.S. has long, deep relationships with governments in the region, which, while expensive and time-consuming, makes it relatively easy to fly

people home. Guatemala and Honduras accepted half of all U.S. removal flights last year—727 combined—according to Witness at the Border, a group that tracks flights.

On Tuesday, the U.S. said it would admit 100,000 people from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who are coming for family reunification.

MEXICANS

In some ways, a shared land border that stretches from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas,

makes Mexicans the easiest to remove because it is only a short drive to the nearest official border crossing.

Also, unaccompanied children from Mexico and Canada are not covered by a 2008 anti-trafficking law that grants special legal protection to children traveling alone from other countries. They are quickly sent home.

But Mexicans have also been protected from some of the most restrictive policies. A virtual asylum ban on those who travel through another country to the U.S. border wouldn't apply to Mexicans. A final version of that measure is expected before May 11 and to be quickly challenged in court.

EVERYONE ELSE

Mexicans and people from Central America's Northern Triangle countries accounted for barely half of all people stopped for crossing the Mexican border illegally in March, representing a major change in just the past few years.

Explanations for the others who make up the other half vary by nationality. Russians, for reasons that are unclear, have been among the top winners of 740 slots made available at U.S. border crossings with Mexico under CBPOne, a mobile app that was introduced for asylum-seekers in January. U.S. officials say they are the top nationality on the app, along with Haitians and Venezuelans.

Migrants from Venezuela, Haiti and elsewhere go through the dangerous Darien Gap connecting Colombia and Panama. Last year, 250,000 made the inhospitable jungle crossing, according to the Panamanian government, many of them children.

The U.S., Colombia and Panama announced a joint effort to stem migration through the Darien Gap, but details are unclear.

Prosecutor: Suspected Texas gunman tried to escape to Mexico

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP)—A man suspected of killing five of his neighbors in Texas after they asked him to stop shooting his gun near their house hid out just miles away from the slayings while he and his domestic partner plotted his escape to Mexico, authorities said Wednesday.

Francisco Oropeza showed up and slept at the house outside the city of Conroe on Tuesday while Divimara Lamar Nava got him donuts from a nearby store, a prosecutor said. Lamar Nava also acknowledged delivering a message from Oropeza to his cousins in the area asking them to help him get out of the country, the prosecutor said at Lamar Nava's probable cause hearing. The cousins refused to help.

Authorities believe Lamar Nava was talking to investigators at the same time she was trying to help Oropeza, San Jacinto County District Attorney Todd Dillon said at a news conference. She initially told authorities she didn't know where Oropeza was, but later told a federal agent that he showed up at the house about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, according to the prosecutor at the probable cause hearing.

Oropeza, 38, was arrested there on Tuesday evening, just 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the city of Cleveland, where the shootings took place. Acting on a tip, authorities found him hiding under a pile of laundry in a closet after a four-day manhunt. Lamar Nava, 53, was arrested at the house on Wednesday. Authorities identified Lamar Nava as Oropeza's wife, though jail records list her as not being married but sharing a home address with him. The slayings Friday sent shudders through a nation already dealing with a wave of shootings that have put the U.S. on a torrid pace for mass killings this year.

Authorities identified Lamar Nava as Oropeza's wife, though jail records list her as not being married but sharing a home address with him. The slayings Friday sent shudders through a nation already dealing with a wave of shootings that have put the U.S. on a torrid pace for mass killings this year.

Trump calls rape claim 'ridiculous' in video deposition

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump called a writer's claims that he raped her at a Manhattan department store "the most ridiculous, disgusting story," testifying in a deposition shown in court Wednesday that the allegations were "made up" and that the assault never happened.

Lawyers for accuser E. Jean Carroll played about 30 minutes of excerpts from the former president's deposition, including his emphatic denial of the longtime advice columnist's accusation that he attacked her in the mid-1990s in a Bergdorf Goodman dressing room.

"If it did happen, it would

have been reported within minutes," Trump said, contending that shoppers and employees at the "very busy store" would've heard a commotion and alerted authorities. "It's the most ridiculous, disgusting story. It's just made up," Trump said in the video deposition taken in October.

Several jurors leaned forward, watching without expression as the video played on individual monitors in front of their seats.

In other developments Wednesday, Trump's attorneys said they would not call any witnesses, and the judge said closing arguments would likely happen Monday before

the jury begins deliberations on Tuesday.

Trump has not attended the trial and will not testify, giving his deposition more weight. Asked about the case while traveling in Ireland on Wednesday, Trump told reporters: "I hear we're doing very well in New York."

Jurors in federal court in Manhattan are expected to hear more of Trump's deposition Thursday, followed by three more witnesses being called to the stand by Carroll's lawyers.

Carroll is seeking unspecified monetary damages and a retraction of Trump statements that she alleges were defamatory.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan's president hopes to deepen US security exchanges

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president told visiting ex-U.S. national security adviser John Bolton on Monday that her country is willing to deepen cooperation with the U.S. and "other like-minded partners" to safeguard peace, as the self-governed island faces increasing military threats from China. President Tsai Ing-wen also expressed hopes to Bolton, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2024, for more military and security exchanges and economic cooperation between the two sides, her office said in a statement. Bolton began his weeklong visit to Taiwan last Wednesday and has called for deeper interaction between the two sides' national security teams. His visit reflects the importance of the democratic island as an issue in the U.S. presidential election amid heightened tensions between Washington and Beijing. Later Monday, Tsai said at a separate event that China's military exercises have affected the stability and peace of the Indo-Pacific region. "But we will stay calm and firmly safeguard peace across the Taiwan Strait," she said.

Report: Taliban interfering with NGO work in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Taliban fighter recently fired his rifle into the air at a food distribution event in Afghanistan, an example of their harassment of nongovernmental groups operating in the country, a report from a U.S. watchdog said Wednesday. The Taliban last December barred Afghan women from working at NGOs, allegedly because they were not wearing the hijab — the Islamic headscarf — correctly and were not observing gender segregation rules. In April, they said this ban extended to U.N. offices and agencies in Afghanistan. The measure is being actively enforced by the country's intelligence agency, which reports to the Taliban's leadership in Kandahar, although their chief spokesman says there are no obstacles for U.N. operations in Afghanistan. The latest quarterly report from the watchdog for U.S. assistance to Afghanistan, SIGAR, cited examples of Taliban interference and harassment of NGOs, including the rifle incident.

Pardon frees more than 2,100 political prisoners in Myanmar

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's ruling military council on Wednesday said it was releasing more than 2,100 political prisoners as a humanitarian gesture. Thousands more remain imprisoned on charges generally involving nonviolent protests or criticism of military rule, which began when the army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. State-run MRTV television reported that the head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, had pardoned 2,153 prisoners on the most important Buddhist holy day of the year, marking the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha. In a separate report, it said Min Aung Hlaing had commuted the death sentences of 38 prisoners to life in prison. The report provided no details about them. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, there were 112 prisoners on death row as of Tuesday who had been put there since the army takeover. The group keeps detailed tallies of arrests and casualties linked to the repression of the military government. At least four executions have been carried out since the military seized power. The prisoner releases began Wednesday but may

take a few days to be completed. The identities of those released were not immediately available, but do not include Suu Kyi, who is serving a prison term of 33 years on more than a dozen charges her supporters say were trumped up by the military.

South Korean tourist dies in Taiwan, boyfriend investigated

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A South Korean tourist died in a hotel in Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan and her South Korean boyfriend who was traveling with her is under investigation, according to news reports. The 31-year-old woman was rushed to a hospital on April 24 after her boyfriend said he woke up from a nap and found she wasn't breathing, according to United Daily News and broadcaster TVB. It said doctors were unable to revive her. Doctors found bleeding in the woman's skull and bruises on her head and arms, UDN said. It identified her only by the surname Lee and her 32-year-old boyfriend as Kim. The boyfriend was questioned on suspicion of homicide and released on bond of 100,000 New Taiwan dollars (\$3,200).

Baby delivered, Thai PM candidate set to resume campaigning

BANGKOK (AP)—A popular candidate for prime minister of Thailand said Wednesday she's eager to get back on the campaign trail, just two days after giving birth. Speaking at a news conference at the hospital in Bangkok where she gave birth, Paetongtarn Shinawatra said her new baby boy wouldn't affect her ability to rally support for her Pheu Thai party with just under two weeks to go before the polls. "I believe good things come along with children," she said, sitting beside her husband, Pidok Sooksawas. "I believe that children are my secret power to work, and to lead everyday life." The newborn, Pruthasin Sooksawas, was brought into the room in a rolling incubator and displayed briefly to the media before being moved out again. Paetongtarn is the youngest daughter of Thaksin Shinawatra, the popular but divisive former prime minister who was ousted by a military coup in 2006. She's also the niece of Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government met a similar fate eight years later. Thaksin, who has been in self-exile since the 2006 coup, tweeted Monday after the birth that he would like permission to come home to see his grandchildren, ending the tweet with "See you soon." He lives abroad to escape a prison term for abuse of power, a conviction he has decried as politically motivated. Paetongtarn played down the significance of the message, saying it was just a natural expression of a grandfather who was "very happy and excited." Thaksin is a popular but divisive figure of Thai politics, and there has been concern that his return could be destabilizing. "Of course, the things he said would have a political effect," she said. "However, as a family, I think there's nothing wrong to hope for that, especially when there's a good thing happening to the family." Paetongtarn campaigned throughout her pregnancy. She and the Pheu Thai Party have consistently topped the opinion polls as Thailand's favored prime minister candidate and next government. She took the opportunity Wednesday to underline that she was 100% confident of a landslide victory. "I'd like to ask the Thai people to remain firm, because this vote is not like any other," she said. "Thailand cannot just hope for the best anymore. Thailand needs change, and only the Pheu Thai Party is the best answer for the Thai people now."

World

Ukraine denies Russian claim Kyiv sent drones to hit Kremlin



People look at the empty Red Square closed for Victory Parade preparation next to the Moscow Kremlin, in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia claimed it foiled an attack by Ukrainian drones on the Kremlin early Wednesday, calling it an unsuccessful assassination attempt against President Vladimir Putin and promising retaliation for what it termed a "terrorist" act. The Ukrainian president denied it, saying: "We don't attack Putin or Moscow."

Putin wasn't in the Kremlin at the time and was at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

There was no independent verification of the purported attack, which Russia authorities said occurred overnight but presented no evidence

to support it. Questions also arose as to why it took the Kremlin hours to report the incident and why videos of it also surfaced later in the day.

A video posted overnight on a local Moscow news Telegram channel, shot from across the river from the Kremlin, appeared to show smoke rising over the buildings. It wasn't possible to ascertain its veracity. According to text accompanying the footage, residents of a nearby apartment building reported hearing bangs and seeing smoke around 2:30 a.m.

Another video on social media, which looks to be taken from across Red Square, appears to show the moment a drone explodes in a flash of fire above the roof of the

Senate Palace in the Kremlin, near a flagpole flying the Russian tricolor, with debris falling on the roof. It also was not possible to independently verify this footage.

The Kremlin said Russian military and security forces had stopped the drones before they could strike. Nobody was hurt, it added. Its official website said debris from the drones fell on the Kremlin grounds without damage.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on an unannounced visit to Helsinki for talks with the leaders of five Nordic countries, denied any role.

"We don't attack Putin or Moscow. We fight on our territory. We're defending our villages and cities," he said at a news conference.

UN humanitarian chief in Sudan, seeking guarantees on aid

PORT SUDAN, Sudan (AP)—The U.N.'s humanitarian chief arrived in Sudan's main seaport on Wednesday to seek guarantees for the safe passage of aid deliveries, as thousands of Sudanese and foreign nationals gathered there in hopes of fleeing the conflict-torn east African country.

Martin Griffiths, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator at the United Nations, tweeted that he came to affirm the U.N.'s commitment to the Sudanese people. He arrived in Port Sudan on the Red Sea on the last day of a shaky truce, meant to expire at midnight, which has not quelled the fighting.

However, it is unclear how U.N. agencies can operate

with limited staff and supplies amid the chaos, at a time of increasing concern about those trapped and displaced by the battle for control of Sudan. The fighting between forces loyal to two rival generals erupted April 15.

Thousands of U.N. workers were evacuated a week into the fighting, and some U.N. agencies paused their services. The World Food Program suspended operations after three of its workers were killed in fighting in southern Sudan, but the agency has since said it will resume its work.

The fighting, including unprecedented urban warfare in the capital of Khartoum, was preceded by months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-

Fattah Burhan, and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

At a virtual news conference from Port Sudan, Griffiths said he is seeking guarantees from the warring sides for the safe passage of humanitarian aid. He addressed criticism that the U.N. had not been doing enough by saying it was "extremely difficult" to work in Sudan.

The World Food Program reported that 17,000 metric tons of food has been looted, including in Khartoum and western Darfour, out of 80,000 metric tons that the Rome-based agency had in Sudan, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

Off The Wall

Wheels in motion for the next Philly Naked Bike Ride in Aug.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eager for another nude bike ride through the City of Brotherly Love? Keep your shirt on—for now.

The next Philly Naked Bike Ride is coming in August.

Organizers of the annual jaunt to promote fuel conservation and positive body image said Wednesday they are holding the Aug. 26 starting location and route under wraps and will

disclose them the day before.

Previous rides have zipped past sites including Independence Hall, the U.S. Mint, the Liberty Bell and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where Sylvester Stallone sprinted up the steps in “Rocky.” The 2020 ride was called off because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 10-mile (16-kilometer) Philadelphia ride, related to the World Naked Bike Ride move-

ment, draws about 3,000 bikers in the buff. Organizers say they hope it encourages people to bike more and to embrace nudity as a normal and enjoyable part of life.

The ride used to be held in September. But the nude bicyclists said it was too chilly, with temperatures reaching only as high as about 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius), so in 2019 it was moved to August.

Bear gives principal a roaring wake-up call



In this image from video provided by Nicholas County Schools, Zela Elementary School Principal James Marsh reacts after a black bear jumps out of a trash dumpster outside the school in Summersville, W. Va., on Monday, May 1, 2023.

A black bear gave a West Virginia principal quite the wake-up call when it emerged—growling and roaring—from a dumpster outside an elementary school.

Zela Elementary School principal James Marsh was surprised to discover the bear had somehow managed to

get inside the dumpster over the weekend even after the school installed a lock bar. As Marsh was unlocking the bin Monday, the bear began pushing open the lid.

“That will wake a person up,” Marsh said Tuesday in a phone interview. “That was 7:15 a.m., if you are

not already awake that will wake you up.”

Marsh darted away once the bear’s head appeared. The bear then jumped out and ran off in an encounter that was recorded by a school security camera and has since being shared widely across social media.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

State senator makes shirtless vote during Zoom meeting

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minnesota state senator became a reluctant star on social media after he voted shirtless while lying in bed during what should have been a routine legislative commission meeting. In a video streamed on YouTube, Republican Sen. Calvin Bahr, of East Bethel, can briefly be seen voting—with a School House Rock “I’m Just a Bill” character on the wall behind him—during a Zoom call on Monday with the Legislative Audit Commission. After voting, Bahr quickly turned the camera off, leaving a black screen showing just his name. A GOP Senate spokeswoman said Bahr, a truck driver, worked until 4:45 a.m. and then went to bed before Monday’s meeting. She said he would not comment on the vote or the video. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. The video prompted several memes and social commentary before comments were turned off.

SNAKE FLIPS SWITCH, STOPS TRAFFIC AT VIRGINIA INTERSECTION

MANASSAS, Va. (AP)—A large snake brought traffic to a stop at an intersection in Prince William County, Virginia. The snake was in an electrical panel at the intersection of Prince William Parkway and Sudley Manor Drive and caused a power outage on Monday, the Prince William County Police Department said in a statement. A police officer and an animal control officer worked together to remove the snake from the panel and release it unharmed in the area, authorities said. The snake was so large that it flipped a breaker switch that shut off the signal, but it didn’t damage anything inside the box, officials told news outlets. It’s believed that the snake had been living in the box for a while due to molten skin found inside. When traffic signals aren’t working because of a power outage, police say to treat intersections like stop signs.

Life-size sculpture of euthanized walrus unveiled in Norway

HELSINKI (AP)—A walrus that became a global celebrity last year after it was seen frolicking and basking in a Oslo fjord before it was euthanized by the authorities has been honored with a bronze sculpture in Norway. The life-size sculpture by Norwegian artist Astri Tonoian was unveiled Saturday at the Oslo marina not far from the place where the actual 600-kilogram (1,300-pound) mammal was seen resting and relaxing during the summer of 2022. The walrus, named Freya, quickly became a popular attraction among Oslo residents but Norwegian authorities later made a decision to euthanize it—causing public outrage—because they said people hadn’t followed recommendations to keep a safe distance away from the massive animal.

Science & Technology

Star swallows planet in one gulp

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—For the first time, scientists have caught a star in the act of swallowing a planet—not just a nibble or bite, but one big gulp.

Astronomers on Wednesday reported their observations of what appeared to be a gas giant around the size of Jupiter or bigger being eaten by its star. The sun-like star had been puffing up with old age for eons and finally got so big that it engulfed the close-orbiting planet.

It’s a gloomy preview of what will happen to Earth when our sun morphs into a red giant and gobbles the four inner planets.

“If it’s any consolation, this will happen in about 5 billion years,” said co-author Morgan MacLeod of the Harvard-

Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

This galactic feast happened between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago near the Aquila constellation when the star was around 10 billion years old. As the planet went down the stellar hatch, there was a swift hot outburst of light, followed by a long-lasting stream of dust shining brightly in cold infrared energy, the researchers said.

While there had been previous signs of other stars nibbling at planets and their digestive aftermath, this was the first time the swallow itself was observed, according to the study appearing in the journal *Nature*.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher Kishalay De spotted the luminous outburst in 2020 while

reviewing sky scans taken by the California Institute of Technology’s Palomar Observatory. It took additional observations and data-crunching to unravel the mystery: Instead of a star gobbling up its companion star, this one had devoured its planet.

Given a star’s lifetime of billions of years, the swallow itself was quite brief—occurring in essentially one fell swoop, said Caltech’s Mansi Kasliwal, who was part of the study.

The findings are “very plausible,” said Carole Haswell, an astrophysicist at Britain’s Open University, who had no role in the research. Haswell led a team in 2010 that used the Hubble Space Telescope to identify the star WASP-12 in the process of eating its planet.

Lunar eclipse today will be a subtle show

On May 5, 2023, people around the world will witness a lunar eclipse when the Earth gets between the Sun and the Moon and casts part of its shadow on the Moon.

The eclipse will be visible in Africa, Asia, Australia and large portions of Europe, though not in the U.S. this time

around. This eclipse is not what some call a “blood moon,” as it will not turn red. Instead, the Moon will dim slightly as it passes through a lighter part of the Earth’s shadow—called the penumbra.

While the upcoming event will not be the most stunning celestial display, it is just the

first of a number of eclipses occurring over the next year, and they all work in similar ways.

Lunar eclipses are relatively short, only lasting a few hours from start to finish. Totality, the part of the eclipse that is darkest, lasts about 30 to 60 minutes depending on how close to the center of the shadow you are.

Science Matters

Dark, boiling hot, teeming with life

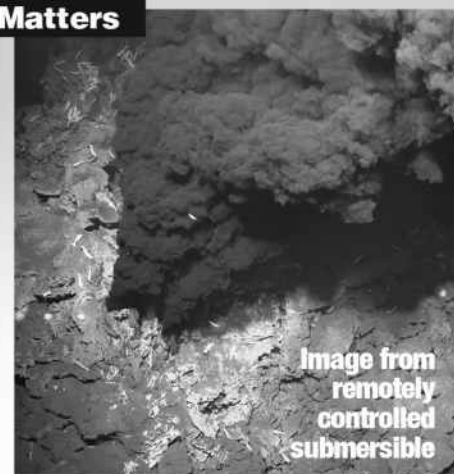
An international project has found a large field of “hydrothermal vents” lying on the deep sea Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Earth’s longest mountain range.

Newly found vents

Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a 10,000 mi. (16,000 km) seam in the sea floor where rock is rising out of Earth’s mantle



Five active sites, over 7 sq. mi. (18 sq km), located at the Puy des Folles volcano



‘Black smokers’

Super-hot mineral-rich water flows up through the deep ocean floor

Extreme pressure keeps it from boiling; surrounding water is just above freezing

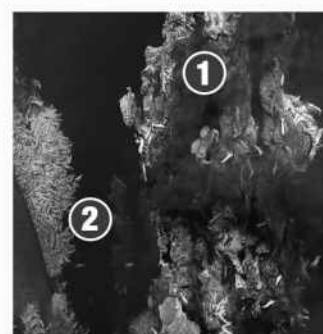
Flow turns black when fine particles of sulfide minerals contact the seawater

An alien life system thrives on the vents

A vent’s food chain does not rely on sunlight and plants

1 Certain bacteria can draw energy from hot inorganic chemical reactions

© 2023 TNS
Source: Schmidt Ocean Institute; US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



2 Some shrimp, crabs, tube worms and anemones evolved to live near the vents, feeding on bacteria

3 **Bigfin squid**

Another tier of fish and invertebrates preys on the bacteria-fed animals

Life & Style

UK readies pomp for King Charles III's coronation

LONDON (AP)—The crown has been resized. The troops are prepared for the biggest military procession in 70 years. The Gold State Coach is ready to roll.

Now it's time for the show. King Charles III will be crowned Saturday at Westminster Abbey in an event full of all the pageantry Britain can muster.

Enrobed clergymen will hand over the medieval symbols of power—the rod, the scepter and the orb. Brass bands and soldiers in bearskin hats will troop through the streets. And the new king and queen will presumably end the day on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave to the cheering crowds.

But don't be too dazzled. There's purpose behind the pomp: to buttress the crown's foundations and show that the people of the United Kingdom still support their monarch.

Royal historian Robert Lacey compares the event to a U.S. presidential election and an inauguration rolled into one—a celebration as well as a test of how the public sees the new sovereign.

"The king obviously is not subject to the vote and so these big public rituals are the closest royal people get to that sort of test," said Lacey, author of "Battle of Brothers: William & Harry—the Inside Story of a Family in Tumult." "Its basic purpose is to attract the loyalty and interest of British people



AP
Britain's King Charles III inspects the 200th Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Sovereign's Parade and presents the new Colours and Sovereign's Banner to the receiving Ensigns in Camberley, England, Friday, April 14, 2023.

weakened over time. Britain is gripped by double-digit inflation that is eroding living standards and making some people question the expense of the coronation. And the royal family is riven with controversy as Charles' younger son, Prince Harry, lobs criticism from his base in Southern California.

More fundamentally, some in Britain's increasingly diverse society want a re-examination of the monarchy's links to the trade in enslaved Africans and its role in the former British Empire, which ruled over large parts of Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

Kehinde Andrews, a professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University, questions whether the people of Britain and the Empire's successor, the Commonwealth, really want a 74-year-old white man as their representative.

Missy, Willie and George Michael among Rock Hall inductees

NEW YORK (AP)—Missy Elliott, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Chaka Khan, "Soul Train" creator Don Cornelius and the late George Michael have all been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, with Kate Bush also finally reaching the top of that hill.

The Cleveland-based institution announced Wednesday the artists and groups entering the hall as the class of 2023, a list that includes The Spinners, Rage Against the Machine, DJ Kool Herc, Link Wray, Al Kooper and Elton John's longtime co-songwriter Bernie Taupin.

"When you can go from Link Wray, who was one of the early influencers, to Missy Elliott and Kate Bush and The Spinners and Rage Against the Machine and Willie Nel-

son, you have a very diverse body of work. What we are always trying to show is that rock 'n' roll is a big tent and a lot of people belong," said Joel Peresman, president and CEO of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation ahead of the unveiling.

Elliott, the first female rapper inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, an MTV Video Vanguard Award recipient and a four-time Grammy Award winner, now becomes the first female hip-hop artist in the rock hall, which called her "a true pathbreaker in a male-dominated genre."

In response, she tweeted: "I want to say this is HUGE not for just me but all my Sisters in HIPHOP this door is now OPEN to showcase the hard work & what many of us con-

tribute to MUSIC. I have cried all morning because I am GRATEFUL."

Artists must have released their first commercial recording at least 25 years before they're eligible for induction. Eight out of 14 nominees were on the ballot for the first time, including Crow, Elliott, Michael and Nelson. This is the first year of eligibility for Elliott.

Bush was a nominee last year but didn't make the final cut then. She got in this year due to a new wave in popularity after the show "Stranger Things" featured her song "Running Up That Hill (A Deal with God)." The hall hailed her for "using lush soundscapes, radical experimentation, literary themes, sampling, and theatricality to captivate audiences and inspire countless musicians."

to demonstrate that crowd outside Buckingham Palace waving at the balcony."

But, while TV screens around the world will be

filled with flag-waving fans, Charles' coronation comes at a difficult time for the royals.

Opinion polls show that support for the monarchy has

Carrie Fisher gets Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Carrie Fisher is receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a May the Fourth tribute to one of the "Star Wars" franchise's most beloved figures.



Fisher

On Thursday, Fisher—who died in 2016—joins "Star Wars" co-stars Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill on the Hollywood tourist attraction that recognizes luminaries from film, television, music and other entertainment industries. The trio's stars are all located on the 6,800 block of Hollywood Boulevard, near

where the original film debuted in 1977.

Fisher played Leia Organa, who over six films morphed from a princess to a general leading the forces of good in its fight against oppressive

regimes aiming to control a galaxy far, far away. Billie Lourd will be accepting the star on behalf of her mother.

Fans have long campaigned for her to receive a Walk of Fame star. The honor comes on May the Fourth, essentially an official holiday for Star Wars fans that's a play on a line that Fisher said often in the films,

"May the Force be with you."

Devotees worldwide celebrate with a variety of tributes, while retailers hold special sales on Star Wars merchandise.

The induction ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. Pacific and livestreamed by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Fisher will be given the 2,754th star on the Walk of Fame. Ford received his star in 2003 and Hamill was honored in 2018.

Walk of Fame stars are given to performers who are nominated and a \$75,000 fee is now required to create the star and maintain it.

Girlfriend ready to commit; boyfriend continues to balk

DEAR ABBY: I'm in love with a man I met online. We have been together three years, and I want us to start talking about our future. He has never been married, but he has been in long-term relationships before.

When would be a good time to discuss this with my boyfriend? How would I approach this discussion? Is there anything else we could do like have a commitment ceremony? He's afraid of being hurt, which is understandable. His ex used him and led him on for eight years. She would say she loved him but never spent any time with him. She'd also go on trips with other men and wouldn't invite him. I feel horrible that he was treated that way. What can I do to show him I am not her, and that I'm here for the long haul?

I have asked him to marry me twice. I'm having plastic surgery next month, and I told him that when I'm healed I am going to ask him once more. I'm excited but scared at the same time because I'm afraid he's going to let his fear get the best of him. How can I put his mind at ease? He's amazing. He has turned my entire life around, and he's the one I want to spend my life with. He truly is my one and only.

NERVOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NERVOUS: This man's previous girlfriend may have led him on for eight years, but he allowed it.

After three years with you, he should know what kind of person you are—the drawbacks as well as your singular attributes. Please do not allow him to do to you what she did to him, which is take up your precious time with no intention of making your relationship permanent.

I see no reason to wait until after your cosmetic surgery unless you are counting on him to take care of you during recovery. As I see it, you have two choices: Tell him you need a commitment and be prepared for him to run, or tolerate the status quo. If he loves you as much as you love him, he shouldn't run away from the idea of spending his life with you. If he does run, you are better off without him.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: I gave a newlywed couple a picnic basket filled with everything you would need for a picnic, including a quilt I had made for them to celebrate their wedding. My husband delivered it to the new husband, and when asked what it was, my husband replied that it was something for HIM.

Well, I have heard nothing more about the gift, especially the quilt! I don't think the young man ever opened the basket. I did mention something to the wife once about what was inside the basket, and her expression was blank. It has been over a year. Should I forget about it or be bold and ask?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



GIFT-GIVER IN NEW YORK

DEAR GIFT-GIVER: Be bold and ask. If the wife looked blank, it was probably because she knew nothing about the gift your husband had told her husband was for "him" instead of for "them."

◆◆◆◆

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

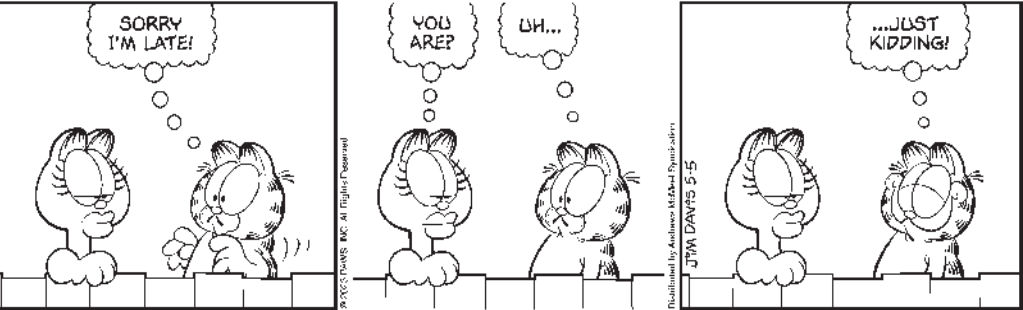
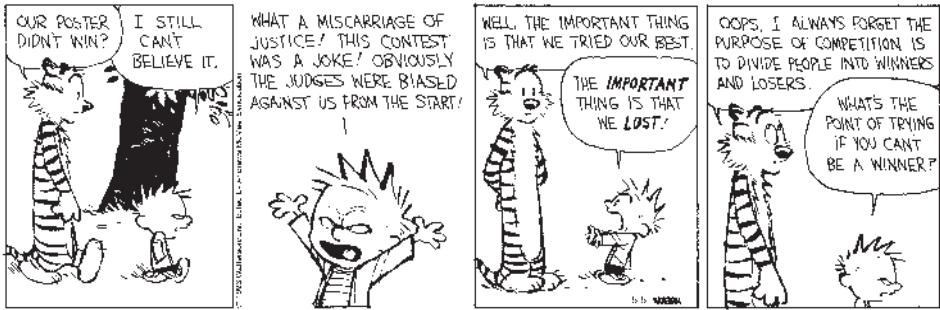
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Prophets
6 Vintage
9 "Say what?"
12 Poe's bird
13 Churchill gesture
14 Attorneys' org.
15 Tabriz resident
16 Vague response
18 Seal user
20 Dressed
21 Moreover
23 Feeling down
24 Blog entries
25 Gridlock sound
27 Wild West show
29 Tenor Enrico
31 Fork wielders
35 Natural talents
37 "Frozen" reindeer
38 Milan's La —
41 "Top Hat" studio
43 Commotion

DOWN

1 — Lanka
2 Hearing thing
3 Boxer Holyfield
4 Nevada city
5 Tizzies
6 Go too far
7 Tax
8 Narc's org.
9 Salutes
10 German sub
11 Flanch crew
17 Ske-daddles
19 "Hammerin' Hank"
21 "GMA" network
22 PBS supporter
24 Royal insomnia cause
26 Accessible to all
28 Classroom array
30 Mermaid's home
32 Gospel
33 Flushed
34 —Cat
36 Most faithful
38 Winter coasters
39 Break a Commandment
40 Photographer Ansel
42 Playful sea critter
45 Beloved
46 "— you an apology?"
48 Ms. Thurman
50 Exist
51 Concorde, e.g.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-5

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adele, 35; Henry Cavill, 40; Danielle Fishel, 42; Tina Yothers, 50.

Happy Birthday: Consider the changes going on around you a blessing and a chance to incorporate the things you enjoy doing most into your routine this year. Speak up, share your feelings and work toward better relationships. Put your energy into your home and family, and let your inspiration come from your heart. Use your energy constructively and make this a year to remember. Your numbers are 9, 14, 18, 21, 25, 34, 42, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go out of your way to get things done. Clear your roster and refuse to take on too much. Have an airtight strategy and desire to improve your workspace, or turn your home into a place of comfort and convenience. Don't reveal secrets. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Deter people trying to pry into your personal life. Stick close to home and focus on what you can accomplish. A chance to do something constructive for someone who needs help will inspire you to take better care of yourself. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Uncertainty regarding what you should do and what you want to do will develop. Rethink the consequences before deciding to take a risk with your health or wealth. Research a minimalist lifestyle and you'll discover remnants of wisdom that will improve your life. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your ability to comfort people will put you in demand and in a position to mold the way things unfold. Speak with confidence and com-

passion, and you'll set standards for others to follow. Your contributions will open a door to a better future. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful not to reveal sensitive information. You'll face scrutiny if you aren't transparent regarding your motives. Your hard work and dedication will result in new opportunities that promise greater cash flow. Having a workspace at home will lead to additional income. Romance is favored. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Visit someone you enjoy being around and share your ideas. A partnership will inspire creativity and the discipline to follow your plan through to the end. An offer that encourages you to veer off in a new direction will change your lifestyle. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Added discipline will help you train for a physical challenge. Pay attention to what your body is telling you and nourish it with a healthy diet. The better you look and feel, the easier it will be to combat what defies you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An open mind and creative plan will encourage you to take on something unusual. Traveling for the purpose of discovery will feed your soul and help you gain insight into possibilities. A change of plans will work in your favor. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen to the information provided, but verify what you hear before passing it along. Staying on the right path will necessitate getting your facts straight and displaying how they apply to what you are trying to achieve. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A financial plan or home investment will help you attain personal freedom. Control your destiny by structuring where, how, what and who you work alongside. Don't let anyone pressure you into overextending yourself. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be aware of what everyone in your circle is doing and where they place their loyalty before you share your plans. A change at home or work won't sit well with you. Offering alternatives will override poor suggestions better than rage. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your insight and imagination to help increase your financial intake. Don't trust someone who can't give you a straight answer with information that may jeopardize your plans. Don't take a risk with your health or your heart. Distance yourself from emotional manipulation. *****

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, sensitive and persistent. You are proactive and wise.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♀: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♀♂: Aim high; start new projects. ♀♂♂♂: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/5

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CORONA BEER Solution: 10 letters

N N I F F I R G N I W E R B M
W E D G E C K L A U T I R E A
O E L A B E L T T O B E Y A R
R N R L T A L R V E W E O C G
C O I T G O I C M L V F H A
R M L E T P H A R E O F E R
E E R H U E C S A B K L S I
N L G R T N T B N T A S C N T
S I G A N E E I A V M T E A A
L T L H R R B O O T H A R C L
I A O S O A L R D R I N K S C
P P R I C F O A M M O D E L O
S S E G A R E V E B I M A S H
A T I N O R O C A M E X I C O
Y E A S T L A M E S N E C I L

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AB InBev, Alcohol, Barley, Beaches, Beverage, Booth, Bottle, Brewing, Brewmaster, Gans, Cool, Corn, Coronita, Crown, Drinks, Flavor, Float, Foam, Griffin, Grupo, Hops, Kettle, Label, Lager, Lemon, License, Light, Lime, Love, Make, Malt, Margarita, Mash, Mexico, Modelo, Officer, Opener, Palate, Pilsner, Ritual, Shirt, Signs, Stand, Taps, Wedge, Yeast

Yesterday's Answer: Buenos Dias

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Brown scores 25, Celtics spoil Embiid's return in 121-87 win



BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics walked off the court angry and frustrated after giving up home-court advantage in their series-opening loss to the 76ers.

Boston called on those emotions — and its defense — to dominate in Game 2.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 points and the Celtics rolled past Philadelphia 121-87 on Wednesday night, spoiling the return of new league MVP Joel Embiid.

The Celtics tied the series at one game apiece as the Eastern Conference semifinal series shifts to Philadelphia for Game 3 on Friday.

"I think we've just got to take more pride in ourselves. That's it," Brown said. "I just feel like we underperformed last game. We wanted to come out and play to the best of our ability. And that's what we did."

Malcolm Brogdon added 23 points, connecting on six of Boston's 20 3-pointers. Derrick White and Marcus Smart added 15 points apiece. Jayson Tatum played most of the game in foul trouble and was held to seven points.

Boston ratcheted up its defense and limited a 76ers team that hit 17 3-pointers in its Game 1 win to just 6 of



AP
Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, left, drives between Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden and Tyrese Maxey (0) during the first half of Game 2 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series, Wednesday, May 3, 2023, in Boston.

30 from beyond the arc on Wednesday. The Celtics led by as many as 36 points in the fourth quarter.

Brogdon said their charge now is to maintain the same mindset going forward.

"It doesn't mean anything if

there's no carryover," he said.

Tobias Harris led the 76ers with 16 points. Embiid finished with 15 points, three rebounds and five blocks in his first game back from a sprained right knee that caused him to miss the final game of the 76ers' first-round sweep of Brooklyn. He also sat out Philadelphia's Game 1 win on Monday.

James Harden, who tied his postseason career high with 45 points in Game 1, missed all six 3-pointers and shot 2 for 14 overall while

finishing with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Embiid's return came a day after being voted MVP for the first time.

He was cleared to play by doctors and training staff following a pregame, on-court workout. That was after he did some light work during the 76ers' morning shootaround.

Embiid said he was told it could take four to six weeks for his injury to heal and the opportunity to take a 2-0 lead ultimately made him want to

play, even if there was rust.

"I felt pretty good to play and I felt like I could help the team," he said. "I feel like I just got this out the way. Disappointed by the loss. But that's a step toward getting back to myself."

Tatum picked up three fouls in the first half. He was called for his fourth at the 7:34 mark of the third quarter when he knocked Harden to the floor while trying to fight through a screen.

It forced him to play a little less aggressively and

helped Philadelphia cut what had been an 18-point Boston lead to 73-60 with just over four minutes to play in the third quarter.

But Tatum's teammates picked up the slack, leading the way as the Celtics closed the quarter on a 19-5 run to get it back up to 92-65 entering the fourth.

Embiid started slowly offensively, but with the 76ers struggling to make shots from the outside, he made an almost immediate impact defensively.

First, he blocked an early shot by Smart and then forced White to adjust another attempt. Embiid had five blocks his first 13 minutes of action.

But his conditioning was noticeably lacking as he lumbered into sets at times. He played just shy of seven minutes in the first quarter before getting his first rest. He returned for the final 1:05 of the period.

Embiid knocked down his first field goal of the night, a jumper over Grant Williams, with 21.4 seconds left before tripping as he backpedaled back down the court. He quickly rose to his feet. He finished the first half with 13 points, going 7 of 8 from the free throw line.

Brown said they expect to arrive in Philadelphia and face a 76ers team motivated after losing for the first time this postseason.

"Hostile environment. But it should be fun," he said. "We should all be excited to embrace that challenge."

Source: Grizzlies have no plans to bring back Brooks

The Memphis Grizzlies have no plans to bring Dillon Brooks back to the team when he hits free agency this summer, a person with knowledge of the situation said Tuesday.

Brooks was offered an extension last year but turned it down. The Grizzlies have since decided that he won't be in their future plans, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither the team nor Brooks released details publicly.

The Athletic first reported the Grizzlies' decision, and it was subsequently confirmed by ESPN.

Brooks just completed a three-year contract that paid him \$35 million. He led the NBA with 18 technical fouls this season, earning a pair of one-game suspensions for surpassing the league threshold for technicals.

He also was fined \$35,000 for shoving a camera person on the sideline while chasing a loose ball in Miami in March, which he apologized for later. He was suspended a game in February for hitting Donovan Mitchell in the groin in February, costing

him \$78,621 in pay, according to Spotrac.com.

The NBA fined Brooks on Sunday \$25,000 for not talking to the media after some of Memphis' losses in its first-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers. The NBA says Brooks violated league rules for "media interview access."

That included Brooks bolting the Memphis locker room after the Game 6 series-clinching loss before reporters were allowed inside. That 40-point loss was the biggest in franchise history for Memphis, which came in as the West's No. 2 seed for a second straight season.

Grizzlies general manager Zach Kleiman was asked about Brooks' future with Memphis on Sunday. Memphis acquired the 6-foot-6 Brooks, who was the 45th pick overall out of Oregon, in a draft-night trade from Houston in 2017. Brooks had started 318 of 345 regular-season games in his career.

"I'll hit on DB another day, but nothing I could comment on for now with him going into free agency," Kleiman said then. (AP)

Embiid: MVP is validation, but NBA title is still the goal

BOSTON (AP)—Joel Embiid finally said it: Winning the NBA's Most Valuable Player award has been a dream ever since he belatedly started playing basketball.

"I know I've always said I don't care, but it was just for you guys to leave me alone," the 76ers center said Wednesday, a day after he was voted to his first MVP after two runner-up finishes. "I do care in the way that it validates everything, all the work that you've put in. And to be sitting here is just amazing."

A native of Cameroon who didn't pick up the sport until he was 15, Embiid was the 76ers' reward for tanking their way to the No. 3 overall pick in the 2014 draft. But he missed two full seasons with foot injuries, leaving Philadelphia fans to wait while general manager Sam Hinkie insisted that they "Trust the Process."

Injuries continue to keep Embiid off the court to this day: He missed Game 1 of

Philadelphia's second-round series against Boston and is officially listed as doubtful with a sprained knee for Game 2. Embiid said "it's a possibility" he would play on Wednesday night.

"Obviously, it's earlier than what we thought, considering what I had. We're just going to take day by day and see how it feels," he said after some light shooting on Wednesday morning. "It's a possibility, just like it was a possibility in the first game. Obviously, I want to play."

Comparing his life to a movie, Embiid said he originally took up basketball, thinking it might be a pathway to a college degree and a decent job. It earned him a scholarship to Kansas, where he wanted to redshirt as a freshman and stay for five years. When coach Bill Self told him there was no need, and he could be the No. 1 overall draft pick, Embiid didn't believe him.

"I didn't think basket-

ball would take me anywhere," he said.

"The probability of someone like me, who started playing basketball at 15, to get the chance to be the MVP of the league is I would say is probably 'negative zero,'" he said.

"We don't have a lot of opportunities to get to this point, in Africa in general. But improbable doesn't mean impossible," he said. "You can accomplish anything you set your mind to as long as you believe in it, and you keep working hard. Anything can happen."

Embiid, 29, averaged 33.1 points to win his second straight scoring title, averaged 10.2 rebounds and tied a career high with 4.2 assists per game. He received 73 of the 100 first-place votes for the MVP, with two-time winner Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets second and the Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo third.

While acknowledging that

the MVP was important to him, Embiid said he is still focused on his primary goal: winning an NBA title. The Sixers have not made it out of the second round of the playoffs since reaching the NBA Finals in 2001.

"I don't want to win this award because it's just the MVP. I want to win it because it means a lot to me (because) I went through a lot, and that's just a validation of that. Everything—the sacrifices, everything you went through—it's paying off in some way," he said. "Obviously, winning the championship is going to be way better. We now have that opportunity. But I'm just competitive. I want it all. I want to win everything that I can get my hands on. And everybody around me knows that."

"It doesn't matter if it's about basketball or in life, or whatever. I want to win everything," he said. "I want to be first."

Haase homers in both games, Tigers sweep DH against Mets



DETROIT

(AP)—Eric Haase homered in both games of a doubleheader, driving in six runs, and the Detroit Tigers tagged Max Scherzer in his return from a suspension to sweep the New York Mets with an 8-1 victory Wednesday night.

Haase had five RBIs in the first game, including a go-ahead single in the eighth inning of a 6-5 comeback win, and then added one of Detroit's two homers off Scherzer in the nightcap.

The slumping Mets have lost eight of 10. They were playing their second doubleheader in three days after getting rained out three times in the previous four days.

In the second game, Scherzer struggled against his former team. Detroit scored twice in the first inning, Haase homered in the second and Matt Vierling hit a two-run homer in the fourth.

Scherzer (2-2) allowed six runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings. He was suspended for 10 games by Major League Baseball on April 20 after getting ejected for having a foreign substance on his pitching hand during his April 19 start against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Michael Lorenzen (1-1) allowed one run in seven innings to get his first win with Detroit, which is 2-14 against the AL East and 10-3 against the rest of baseball.

YANKEES 4, GUARDIANS 3, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Willie Calhoun hit a tying single in the ninth inning and pinch-hitter Jose Trevino came through with a game-ending single in the 10th, lifting New York to a win in a game it had two more players get hurt.

Yankees center fielder Harrison Bader, back from the injured list just a day earlier, left after a ninth-inning collision with Isiah Kiner-Falefa, and Oswald Peraza limped off after hurting an ankle as a pinch runner.

Calhoun and Jake Bauers homered in the fifth off Shane Bieber as the Yankees erased an early 2-0 deficit.

Pinch-hitter Oscar Gonzalez had an RBI single in the top of the ninth to put Cleveland ahead 3-2, but Calhoun's single in the bottom half of the inning tied the score.

Albert Abreu (1-0) got Josh Naylor to ground into an inning-ending double play in the 10th to get the win.

NATIONALS 2, CUBS 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—CJ Abrams had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning for

the second consecutive game, and Washington beat Chicago. After Marcus Stroman pitched six crisp innings for the Cubs, the Nationals went ahead on four pitches by Adbert Alzolay (1-1). Lane Thomas tripled down the left-field line, the first extra-base hit of the game, and Abrams lined the next pitch to center.

Jake Irvin held the Cubs to two hits over 4 1/3 innings in his major league debut, and five Washington pitchers limited Chicago to six singles. Carl Edwards Jr. (1-1) retired the side in the seventh, Hunter Harvey worked the eighth and Kyle Finnegan induced a game-ending double-play grounder from Patrick Wisdom for his seventh save.

GIANTS 4, ASTROS 2 IN HOUSTON (AP)—Wilmer Flores homered and Joey Bart and Austin Slater had two hits each to lead San Francisco. Slater drove in a run to put the Giants up in a two-run sixth, and an RBI double by Bart extended the lead to 3-0 in the seventh.

Alex Bregman got Houston within a run with a two-run home run in the eighth before Flores added some insurance for the Giants with a solo shot in the ninth.

San Francisco starter Logan Webb (2-5) yielded five hits and two runs in 7 2/3 innings, and Camilo Doval pitched a scoreless ninth for his fifth save.

WHITE SOX 6, TWINS 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Eloy Jiménez hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning to lead Chicago to its third straight victory.

Luis Robert Jr. homered as the White Sox secured their

first series win of the season. Tim Anderson and Yasmani Grandal each had three hits, and Keynan Middleton worked the ninth for his first save of the season.

Carlos Correa had two RBIs for Minnesota, and Nick Gordon homered for the second straight day.

Jiménez drove in Andrew Benintendi with his single to left against Griffin Jax (1-3). The White Sox added an insurance run in the eighth when pinch-runner Billy Hamilton scored from second on Elvis Andrus' grounder to second.

ANGELS 6, CARDINALS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Mike Trout and Jake Lamb hit solo homers in the ninth inning. Shohei Ohtani tied a career-high with 13 strikeouts and Los Angeles rallied to beat St. Louis.

Los Angeles has won six of its last eight games, while the Cardinals have lost five in a row.

Ohtani didn't get the decision, but did become the second player in MLB history to record 500 career strikeouts and hit at least 100 home runs, joining Babe Ruth. Ohtani gave up four runs on five hits over five innings and allowed two home runs for the second straight outing.

The Angels trailed 4-3 heading into the top of the ninth before Lamb launched his second homer of the season to right-center off Giovanny Gallegos (1-1), tying the game at 4. With one out, Trout hit his eighth home run of the season to left for the eventual game-winning run. Anthony Rendon added a run-scoring hit.

RAYS 8, PIRATES 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shane McClellan

became baseball's first six-game winner and Tampa Bay routed Pittsburgh.

McClanahan (6-0) gave up one run on five hits over six innings, striking out nine and lowering his ERA to 2.03. Josh Lowe and Wander Franco homered off Pittsburgh relievers as the Rays improved to 25-6.

Since 1961, only the World Series-winning 1984 Detroit Tigers (26-5) had more wins through 31 games. Tampa Bay has outscored its opponents 207-94. The Rays lead the majors with 64 home runs.

Andrew McCutchen homered for the Pirates (20-11), who have their first three-game losing streak of the season.

DODGERS 10, PHILLIES 6

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Max Muncy hit a game-ending grand slam and Los Angeles rallied from an early five-run deficit for a season-high sixth straight win.

Bryce Harper doubled to start a four-run second inning and reached base five times in his second game of the season for the Phillies, who lost their fourth straight.

Los Angeles swept the three-game series, outscoring the defending NL champions 36-11 and reaching double digits in every game.

RED SOX 8, BLUE JAYS 3

BOSTON (AP)—Enmanuel Valdez, Triston Casas and Masataka Yoshida each drove in two runs and Boston won its fifth straight.

Nick Pivetta (2-2) went six innings and gave up three runs, including solo home runs by Daulton Varsho and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. — whose shot in the third cleared the Green Monster and left Fenway Park.

Alek Manoah (1-2) allowed five runs, two earned, and eight hits in five innings for Toronto.

Manoah held Boston hitless until there were two outs in the third, but encountered a rough stretch after getting hit in his right calf by a sharp line drive off the bat of Rafael Devers with one out in the fourth. Devers took second when catcher Alejandro Kirk fielded the carom and threw the ball into right field. Devers advanced to third when Manoah's pick-off attempt sailed into center and scored on Jarren Duran's double. Casas' single tied the game at 2.

PADRES 7, REDS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rookie Brett Sullivan hit his first home run and had his first four RBIs, and Juan Soto hit a three-run double to make up for a baserunning blunder that cost Xander Bogaerts a club-record on-base streak as San Diego beat Cincinnati.

Seth Lugo (3-2) pitched six strong innings for the Padres, who have won seven of 10 heading into a home weekend series against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers. It'll be the teams' first meeting since the Padres eliminated the 111-win Dodgers in four games in the NL Division Series to reach their first NL Championship Series in 24 years.

ROCKIES 7, BREWERS 1

DENVER (AP)—Kyle Freeland pitched five scoreless innings, Kris Bryant and Charlie Blackmon homered and Colorado got its season-high third straight win.

Alan Trejo hit a three-run double and Elías Díaz had an RBI single as the Rockies improved to 9-3 in their last 12 games against the Brewers.

Already ahead 4-0, the Rockies added to their lead in the seventh when Jurickson Profar doubled off Tyson Miller and Bryant launched his fourth homer. Blackmon connected for a solo shot off Jake Cousins in the eighth.

DIAMONDBACKS 12, RANGERS 7

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Christian Walker homered twice before he drew a bases-loaded walk that put Arizona ahead to stay.

Walker put the Diamondbacks ahead 3-1 with his three-run homer in the third, added a solo shot in the fifth that chased Texas starter Andrew Heaney and walked on four pitches from Jose Leclerc in the seventh that drove in the run that snapped a 7-7 tie.

Each team hit four homers on the mostly sunny, 79-de-

gree day with the roof open.

Ketel Marte and Emmanuel Rivera also homered for Arizona, which matched its season high for runs. Walker matched his career-best with five RBIs in his sixth career multihomer game.

Josh Jung hit two homers for the Rangers, who had a four-game win streak snapped. Jonah Heim and Leody Taveras also went deep.

ROYALS 6, ORIOLES 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Vinnie Pasquantino homered and drove in three runs, Zack Greinke won for the first time since last August and Kansas City snapped a 10-game home losing streak.

Greinke (1-4) won for the first time in 14 starts, allowing just three singles in five innings and striking out three. He threw only 44 pitches—his fewest in a start since tossing 43 for Arizona at Boston on Aug. 14, 2016.

The Royals won their second home game of the season to improve to 2-13 at Kauffman Stadium.

Pasquantino homered into the right-field bullpen to give Kansas City a fourth-inning lead in a game that lasted just 1 hour, 59 minutes. He doubled in another run in the sixth to put the Royals up 2-0.

BRAVES 14, MARLINS 6

MIAMI (AP)—Marcell Ozuna hit a grand slam among his two home runs, Ronald Acuña Jr. also homered and Atlanta went deep six times to roll past Miami.

Acuña's three-run shot to center field in the fifth inning was his sixth home run of the season and made it 11-4 before Austin Riley homered to left-center to add two more runs.

Only the Tampa Bay Rays and Los Angeles Dodgers have recorded more home runs so far this season than the Braves (52). Acuña is hitting .358 and leads the majors with 43 hits and 14 stolen bases.

The Braves sent 12 batters to the plate against starter Braxton Garrett (1-1) in a seven-run second. Ozuna also had a solo homer in the third and was 3 of 5 with five RBIs.

Michael Harris II had a two-run homer in the second, and Ozzie Albies added an RBI double. Albies was 4 of 5 with two RBIs and had a solo shot in the eighth. He leads Atlanta with eight home runs this season.

Collin McHugh (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings of relief for the win.



Susan's Catering serves up upset of New Chang Ming

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Susan's Catering fried New Chang Ming, 95-90, in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Nobody gave Susan's Catering a ghost of a chance against New Chang Ming, but the team caught a break with almost half of the latter's roster indisposed.

It also helped that Matt Duenas was on fire all game long to carry most of the offense for Susan's Catering.

Still with Susan's Catering taking on a skeleton squad, it saw itself down 18-20 after the first quarter before taking modest 3- and 4-point leads

in the middle periods.

Exceptional shotmaking by professional scorer Joseph Torres then guided them home in the 5-point win.

Duenas led all scorers with 30 points, while Torres and Ronald Bernardo added 25 and 20 markers, respectively, as Susan's Catering improved to 5-4.

Gerald Flores and Rodel Pastrana fired 21 and 18 points, respectively, to lead New Chang Ming, which dropped to 4-2 in the open division.

Earlier, Ol'Aces got a season-high 39 points from Ben Pelisamen to beat Double A Corp., 117-84, in the masters division.

Pelisamen's brother, Freddie, played wingman this time and finished with 21 points as the Oleai team won its fourth game in six tries. John Jugos had 25 points and Oliver Rivera 21 but they weren't enough to save

Double A from its fifth loss against a lone win.

Last Monday, Susan's Catering started its upset spree by beating JTM Saipan, 92-78 (5-3). That playdate also saw Ali'i win a low-scoring game against K2 Ballerz (2-5), 57-53, in the open division.

The evening prior, Check-

point International (1-8) finally nailed its first victory after edging Socho (1-7), 88-84. Also in the open division, Puerto Rico Bento (5-3) bended Lakay (3-5) to its will, 71-54.

First Game

Ol'Aces 117 – B. Pelisamen 39, F. Pelisamen 21,

Libuw 14, George 13, Tude-la 11, Mendiola 8, Joab 8, Rangamar 3.

Double A Corp. 84 – Jugos 24, Rivera 21, Catalla 10, Lontoc 19, Tolentino 7, Palero 6, Tenorio 6.

Scoring by quarters: 29-21, 70-47, 97-65, 117-84.

Second Game

Susan's Catering 95 – Duenas 30, Torres 25, Bernardo 20, Galarse 15, Genese 6.

New Chang Ming Market 90 – Flores 21, Pastrana 18, Gontar 14, Aranda 10, Almario 10, Santos 9, Castro 8.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 48-45, 73-69, 95-90.

School students collect over \$60K to support Red Cross

The 34th Annual Red Cross Walkathon last April 22 was a big success thanks to thousands of participants, stakeholders, donors, and volunteers.

Close to 3,000 individuals joined the event with 2,105 registered walkers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Awards and prizes will be given out again this year. The Top 3 schools with the most walkers were: Oleai Elementary (350), Mount Carmel School (194), and

Green Meadow School (139). The schools with the largest amount of donations collected were: Oleai Elementary (\$10,173), Agape Christian School (\$7,684) and Mount Carmel School (\$7,027).

"I am always so inspired by the generosity of our students and grateful to PSS and our private schools for their unwavering support," said John Hirsh, executive

director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The Red Cross thanked all the students, parents, and coordinators for all their time and energy to support the Red Cross humanitarian

work here in the Commonwealth. Extra special thanks to Aetna Insurance for their premier sponsorship. Major supporters also included VANS T-shirt Co., Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway,

Joeten, PIC, Mobil, Bank of Guam, RNV Construction, as well as many other businesses and community groups who provided financial and in-kind support.

The Red Cross is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of our community through volunteer service and financial support. For more information about the American Red Cross here in the CNMI go to www.redcross.org/nmi or call 234-3459. (PR)

BUCO

From Page 24

successful bike race. I haven't been able to get out on my bike as much as I would've liked to have so it definitely challenged my endurance and strength. Nonetheless, I really enjoyed the race. As always, I really appreciate our biking community here on Saipan. Everyone is so supportive and encouraging," said Spaeth.

The 40-year-old Marianas High School teacher jokingly said the best part of the

race was "going downhill and finishing it!"

Seriously though, Spaeth said she just enjoyed her time "riding with friends and pushing each other to try our best."

In the mountain bike long course, Gacayan beat out Mike Aparte and Hernan Cristobal by crossing the finish line in 1:25:48. Aparte and Cristobal submitted times of 1:27:31 and 1:30:11, respectively.

The 38-year-old Townhouse Furniture staff said the hardest part of the course was when he and Aparte broke away from the peloton at the start of

the race.

"We had to exert all our energy to leave the main peloton," he said in Filipino, while adding that the best part of the course for him was when he separated himself from Aparte on the ride up to Suicide Cliff.

Gacayan dedicated his win to his parents and fallen rider Ariel Abadilla, who died of an apparent heart attack last March.

The Top 3 in the road and mountain bike categories won cash prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$30, plus handsome medals.

SULC Marketing and Com-

munication chair Angel Lastimado said last Sunday's race had more than 70 bikers.

Proceeds from the 7th Annual Pedal For Health Bike Race will be used for SULC services, specifically LCI Global Causes and various projects.

SULC president Lindie Mae Moleno, chair Willy Barbo, and co-chair Argie Buensalido expressed their heartfelt appreciation to all the bikers who support the Pedal For Health race

throughout the years.

They said the event would not have been possible without the support of sponsors, namely Tan Sui Lim Foundation, Aga Enterprises, Inc., Armat-ech, Express, Global Security Agency, Hofschneider Engineering Corp., Hong Electric Enterprises, Inc., Jeyd Laundry, KL Carr Enterprises, Macro Accounting Services, MB Tech, North Pac Corp., Pacific Hardware, Tom Yum Restaurant, Top

Shelf Cannabis, UNI Professional, Wushin LPG Gas, Sapphire Ent., Alpex Wholesale, Cellular Pro, Coca-Cola Beverage Co, Inc., first lady Wella Palacios, Herman's Modern Bakery, Marianas Deals, Marpac, Pacific Health, Inc., Puerto Rico Bento, Office of Rep. Roy Ada, Office of Sen. Paul Manglona, Supertech, Inc., Success International Corp., The Water Company, Tony Camacho, Transamerica, Victory Enterprises, and

PALACIOS

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In the doubles column, second is Janica Lizama with three and Edilyn Benjamin, Jaylina Borja, Kianu Aldan, Alannah Sablan, Sheena Maratita, and Rosie Saralu have two each.

Nish Mario has 11 RBIs, second to Camacho. Next is Janica Lizama with 10; Rachel Salalila has eight; and Rosie Saralu, Bong Babauta, and Rayna Deleon Guerrero have seven each.

Mardina Kaipat, Janica Lizama, and Stacy Eno are the triples leaders with two each; Brittany Luzama, Lem Ogu-moro, Rosie Saralu, Kiana Camacho, and Bong Babauta are tied with one each.

Nish Mario and Rachel Salalila are also the home run queens with three each; Kiana Camacho, Bong Babauta, and Edilyn Benjamin have one each.

The pitching leader is Janice Celis of the Hotshots with a 2.45 ERA, a 4-3 win and loss record, 68 hits, and 14 ERs;

second is the Lady Blue Jays' Angel Deleon Guerrero with a 2.63 ERA, three wins, 18 hits, and six ERs; and third is the Lady Legals' Jovie Omar with a 2.80 ERA, a 3-2 record, 48 hits, and 10 ERs.

Celis also has the most strikeouts with 32; Omar is next with 28; Sonia Isaac has 27; Evita Maratita has 24; Bert Camacho has 17; Semerina Simram has 12; Angel Deleon Guerrero has eight; Annalyn Olupumar has six; and Keolani Rios has three.

Back to the men's division, Joey Dela Cruz leads the home run column with six and has the most RBIs with 21. Second to him in home runs is Manny Sablan with five and Robert Bansil, Jeff Cruz, Pete Sablan, Eric Palacios, and Audie Maratita have four each.

Second to Dela Cruz in RBIs is Robert Bansil with 17; Eric Palacios has 16; Glen Camacho batted in 15; and Pete Sablan and Derrick Aguon have 13 each.

Joe Lizama has the most runs scored with 17; Dennis

Cruz has 16; Robert Bansil, James Fleming, Eric Palacios, Roy Tudela have 15; and Pete Sablan, and Joey Dela Cruz have 13 each.

Tim Wesley leads the doubles column with three; James Fleming and Dennis Cruz have six each; Joe Lizama and Glen Camacho have five each; and Vinnie Sablan has four.

Jaimi Reyes and Ben Higgins share the top spot in the triples leaders, while Dominic Hideo, Joe Lizama, Ben Mesa, and Tim Wesley have two each.

The men's pitching leader is Tokahao's Eric David with a 2.63 ERA, with two wins, 37 hits, six ERs, 16 innings, and four games; Paul Salalila from Sufa has a three win record, 2.67 ERA, 35 hits, and eight ERs; and third is Sufa's Mario Aguon with a 4.08 ERA, two wins, 23 hits, and seven ERs.

Henry Reyes has the most strikeouts with 24; Ken Kaipat has 23; Dominic Hideo has 19; Leo Iskawa and Ray Villagomez has 16; and Bruce Laniyo and Derron Flores have 15 each.

CARDINALS

From Page 24

score anymore after that as the Cardinals pitcher got his act together and subsequently retired the Natives lineup in order, 1-2-3, in the last three innings through ground outs, one strike out, and only allowed one runner on base from a walk.

Meanwhile, the Cardinals added three more runs in the fifth inning as their speedy running game allowed them

to be in scoring position and run home safely. In the inning, four bases were stolen—first by Eli Aughenbaugh who stole second then third and was brought home; Thorn Sablan also stole second who was brought in by Yamada; then Yamada stole second too but didn't make it home as the Natives finally shut them down.

The Cardinals couldn't get any more runs in the next couple of innings, but their nine runs were enough to secure their fifth win and remain undefeated in the season.

HAFA

From Page 23

Ahn then proudly reminded everyone that proceeds from the event will be donated to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

NMHC board chair Bobby Cruz, meanwhile, thanked E-Land and PIC Saipan for choosing the council as this year's beneficiary of the Hafa Adai 5K.

"The council is committed to navigating the human experience and telling the story of the indigenous and also the diverse groups of all

the people in the Marianas. That means our job is to tell your stories. By telling these stories we get to understand our history, we can be more critical about whether or not history is correct and we can take back how we understand history, as well as think about the present and understand whether we are making the right decisions today that will reverberate in our future," he said.

NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan seconded Cruz in thanking E-Land and PIC Saipan and added that the Hafa Adai 5K in a way is a microcosm of what the coun-

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 23

Tan Holdings scooped the 1-0 win from Kanoa after their goal made by Christine Beceril in the 58th minute.

In the standings, Shirley's and MP United have kicked SUFC out of first place with a 5-2-1 record each. SUFC is in third place with 5-1-2; fourth is Kanoa with 4-0-4; Paire has a 2-0-5 record; Tan Holdings is at 1-2-4; and Matansa has yet to win with 0-3-5.

cil strives to achieve.

"It's wonderful to be able to partner with E-Land Group and PIC. This is the first time for NMHC to be a beneficiary of this wonderful event. I see it has a lot of components and I see a lot of people from different communities come here for one purpose and that's what NMHC is all about, which is to help the cause of advancing the humanities."

The Hafa Adai 5K was sponsored by Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, Bridge Capital LLC, Marpac, and All-Star Sporting Goods.

Hafa Adai 5K draws some 600 participants

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Around 600 community members signed up for last Saturday's Hafa Adai 5K that started from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan up to the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel and back.

The color run featured five stations where runners were doused with yellow, red, green, blue, and pink "holi powder" made from a biodegradable mixture of cornstarch and food coloring.

Veteran runner Simon Necessito couldn't get enough of taking part in a color run again.

"It's always an interesting event when colors are involved. I thought the rain was going to affect the run that day but it didn't. I think what was unique was that they added a mini game for the run which was a nice addition. What you



MARK RABAGO
The Hafa Adai 5K drew around 600 participants last Saturday.

have to do is perform the test of strength challenge but with one hand. You get a prize afterward if you successfully hit the bell. Overall, it was a great event," he said.

Another Run Saipan member and local disc jockey, Zaira Ganacias, said she and her friends had so much fun it was hard to believe they ran a 5K.

"I couldn't believe it when we approached the finish line. It seriously felt like only 2 kilometers. I guess time flies when you're having fun," she said.

Saipan Community School teacher Raniel Santos, meanwhile, equated the varying colors of powder used in the event to the diversity of the people who ran it.

"There were different kinds of ages, different kinds of runners (including walkers), and different kinds of people all gathered to-

gether for the sole purpose of fun, recreation, exercise, and mission. It was memorable because everyone was genuinely happy and it showed not

just in the faces of the runners but also in the faces of those throwing the colored powder. This is my second color run experience and I found it chal-

lenging because the path was a little narrow but it was still worth it nonetheless. Looking forward to more activities in the community!" he said.

E-Land Group corporate social responsibility manager Lindsey Ahn echoed what Santos said when she spoke before the start of the Hafa Adai 5K.

"Everyone has white T-shirts and soon they will be splashed by five different colors and this represents the island's diversity. The splash of colors will create random patterns, unexpected shapes, but it's going to be beautiful. That somehow represents our community here so everyone has a different story and a different background, but everyone equally contributes to the beauty of this community," she said.

See Hafa on Page 22



MARK RABAGO
E-Land Group corporate social responsibility manager Lindsey Ahn speaks to participants before the start of the Hafa Adai 5K.

Shirley's, MP United atop women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and MP United Football Club reached the top of the standings after Week 9 of the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

In a turn of events, Shirley's have silenced the hot Southern United Football Club, 8-0, while MP United doubled Matansa, 4-2.

Shirley's throttled the gas early as they put the brakes on SUFC's winning streak.

Just three minutes in, Jeraldine Castillo found the back



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this file photo, Shirley's Football Club's Tori Diaz, second right, dukes it out on the pitch with MP United Football Club during their game in the Flores-Pée Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League played at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

of the net for an early lead. The teams then battled it out on the field for a silent next few minutes, but Marilou Arriola made it 2-0 in the 21st minute.

Shirley's continued to display their superior ball control

and positioning, frequently penetrating SUFC's defense and creating scoring opportunities, with Castillo completing the hat-trick back-to-back for a 4-0 game.

They continued their relentless attack at the net in the

second half and scored four more goals made by Marielle Lopez, Arriola, Mikayla Lopez, and another goal by Castillo.

As for MP United, despite the first goal made by Matansa's Jenna Tenorio in the 13th minute, they managed to claw their way to victory.

Moriah Sablan equalized the game in the 22nd minute and MP United immediately took the lead just three minutes later off a goal by Lorian Rabe.

The second and last goal by Matansa was made in the 30th minute and MP United capitalized and scored the tie-breaking goal six minutes later. They added one more goal for good measure in the 42nd minute and that was more than enough to get the W.

In the last game of the day, See SHIRLEY'S on Page 22

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Hafa Adai 5K draws some 600 participants.

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24 FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Veteran cyclist Joel Buco, national triathlete Robyn Spaeth, and newcomer Rolando Gacayan won their respective men's and women's road and mountain bike divisions of last Sunday's Saipan Unity Lions Club 7th Annual Pedal For Health Bike Race held in Marpi.

Buco topped the road race—from Banzai Cliff to the Mobil Oil gas station in Tanapag, to the Million-Gallon Water Tank to Suicide Cliff and Bird Island before returning to Banzai Cliff—in 1:16:16.



Buco, Spaeth, Gacayan top Pedal for Health

Coming in second was RenRen Gaviola with a time of 1:17:03, while Nap Dizon completed the Top 3 in 1:21:40.

The 50-year-old Buco said the road race was especially difficult because he went up against younger cyclists and the course had a lot of uphill climbs.

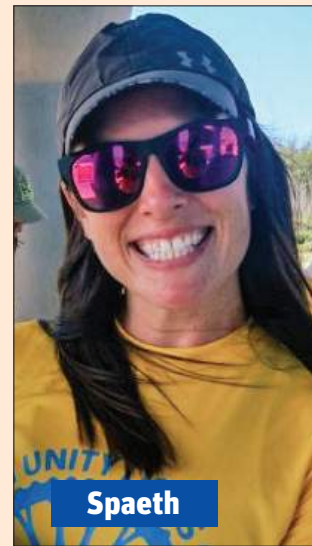
He said he's just lucky that he stirred away from vices like alcohol and cigarettes, allowing him to be in tiptop shape to again win the 33-kilometer race. He also won last



Buco



Gacayan



Spaeth

year's race.

The Yuman Construction employee dedicated his triumph to his family and friends on Saipan, adding that the Pedal for Health event is a worthwhile endeavor considering that it embraces the importance of physical fitness, all thanks to organizer SULC.

Spaeth, for her part, dominated the women's road race division after completing the race in 1:25:55. Nearly six minutes behind was Jay Anne Felipe in 1:31:07, while Shawna Brenfleck was third in 1:32:17.

"It was a great race and I would like to thank the Lions Club for putting on another

See BUCO on Page 22

Cardinals break Natives' win streak

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

The last two undefeated teams of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League—Cardinals and Natives—duked it out Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, with the Cardinals coming out unscathed as they snapped the Natives' win streak.

In an exciting battle for first place supremacy, both teams delivered with the bats and on the mound, but the Cardinals' bats fired the most runs for a 9-3 game.

The Cardinals wasted no time and scored two runs in the first inning off a triple by Brian Camacho. He brought in Nate Camacho after he was walked by Natives pitcher Henry Fleming and got into scoring position after a single by Jerald Cabrera.



After a run scare by the Natives in the first which they could not finish off, they scored a run in the second inning.

A base hit by Jose Guerrero, then another single by Larson Sibetang put them in perfect position to score as Austin Benavente came through with his hit after a fielder's error by the Cardinals allowed the run to come in safely.

While the Cardinals were shut down in the second with only one hit, they bounced back in the third

and scored two runs.

Nate Camacho was hit by a pitch then Jerald Cabrera avenged him by hitting a long double, then Camacho was brought home by his brother Brian's sacrifice fly to the outfield. Poland Masaharu then batted in Cabrera after a single.

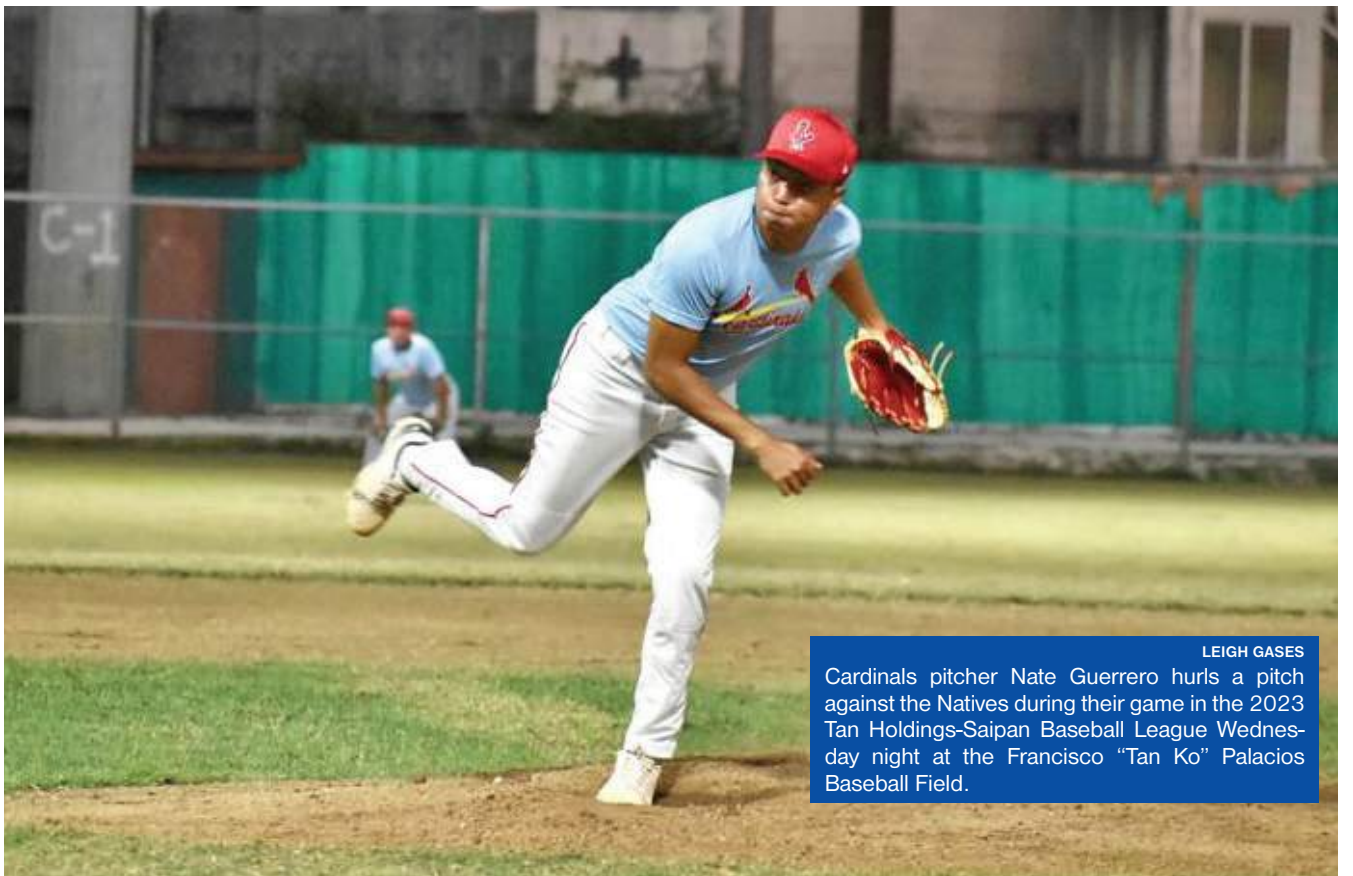
The Cardinals brought their momentum into the fourth inning and scored two more runs after the Natives' pitching was faltering. Shane Yamada led off with a single and advanced to second after Nokki Saralu was hit by a pitch.

A wild pitch to Nate Camacho allowed Yamada to score, then another sacrifice fly by Cabrera brought in Camacho for a 6-1 game as the Natives went scoreless in the third.

The Natives then replied in the fifth as Keoni Lizama and Sibetang ran home safely off a Cardinals' fielding error.

But they weren't able to

See CARDINALS on Page 22



LEIGH GASES

Cardinals pitcher Nate Guerrero hurls a pitch against the Natives during their game in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



Eric Palacios and Kiana "Baby K" Camacho are the batting leaders in their respective divisions of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League as of April 30.

Palacios of second seed Man Amigos has the highest batting average of .773. He has had 17 hits out of 22 at-bats. Second is Asahi's Darwin Masaharu with a .739 average with 17 out of 23 at-bats and third is Hagu La'mun's Tim Wesley with a .714 average

Palacios, Camacho batting leaders in BASA



LEIGH HASES

Man Amigos' Eric Palacios is the current batting leader in the men's division of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League as of April 30.

with 15 hits out of 21 at-bats.

Camacho of the Lady Blue Jays, on the other hand, is the batting, runs scored, doubles, and RBI leader in the women's division. She has a .667 average with 16 hits out of 24 at-bats, has 12 runs scored, four doubles, and 12 RBIs.

Second to Camacho in the batting leaders column is the Lady Legals' Pauline Camacho with a .609 average with 14 out of 23 at-bats. Nish Mario of the Hotshots is third with an average of .600 with nine hits out of 15 chances.

See PALACIOS on Page 22